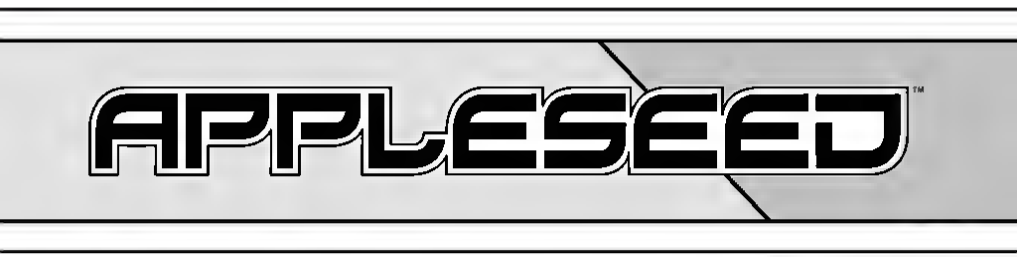
士郎正宗

THE PROMETHEAN CHALLENGE

APPLESEED™

SHIROW MASAMUNE


APPLESEED™

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APPLESEED™ BOOK ONE: THE PROMETHEAN CHALLENGE
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Third edition: November 2007
ISBN 978-1-59307-691-7

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
Printed in the United States of America

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THE PROMETHEAN CHALLENGE

story and art by SHIROW MASAMUNE

translation by DANA LEWIS and TOREN SMITH
[with OUANE JOHNSON]

lettering by L. LOIS BUHALIS and JOHN CLARK
[with TOM ORZECHOWSKI and SASQUATCH]

008 [1] TRIPLE HOUND HUNTING

043 [2] CIVVY STREET

081 [3] EVEN BETS

092 [4] HOSPITALITY

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121 [6] BATTLE OF TITAN

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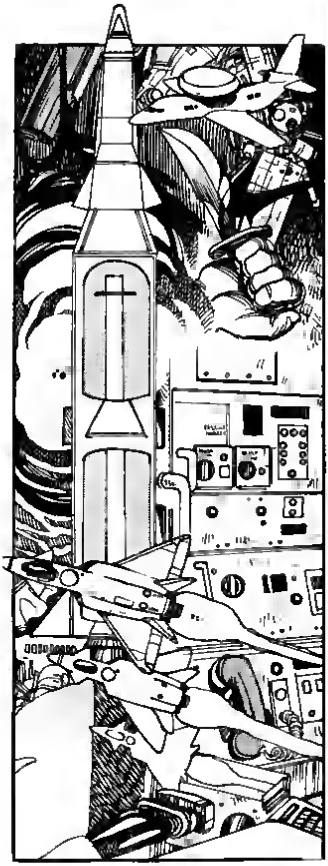

SHIROW

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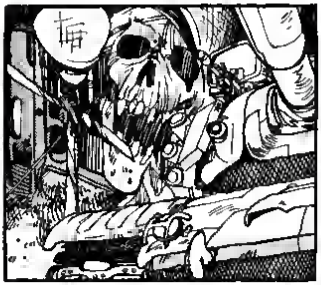
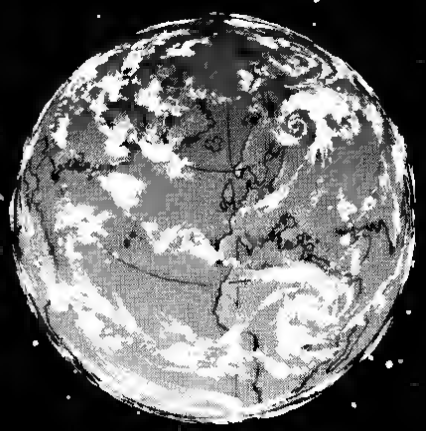
MASAMUNE



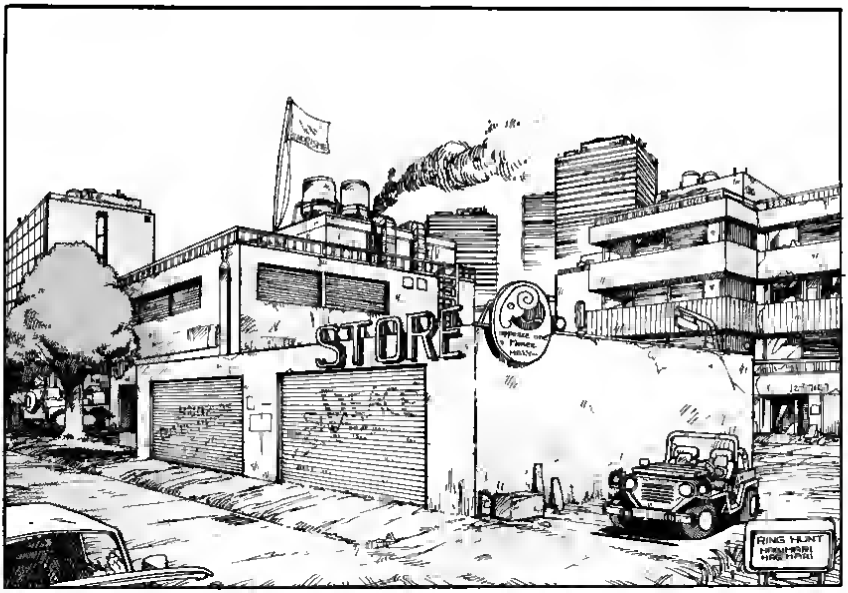
It was in that year that the flames of war broke out simultaneously in every corner of the globe. To the vast movement of armies, conflicts spread, merged, grew, escalating into world war.

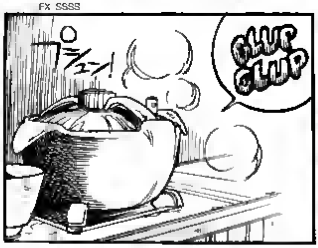
Knowledge was lost. Confusion reigned. New powers rose to displace the old nations.

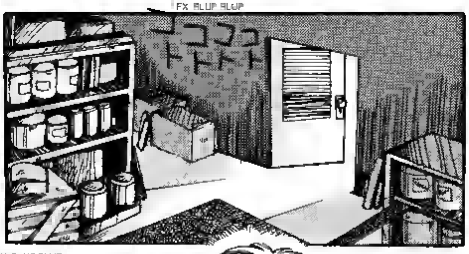
Nuclear weapons themselves were never used. But even without them, the Earth became a quieter planet . . .



1. プロメテウスの挑戦


STORE
RING HUNT


FX SSSS
コトコト
BLUP BLUP


FX BLUP BLUP
コトコト

FX BLUP BLUP
MAYBE I OVERDID IT A LITTLE...?
Oh, WELL ...
SPICE
コトコト
MILK
Hmm...

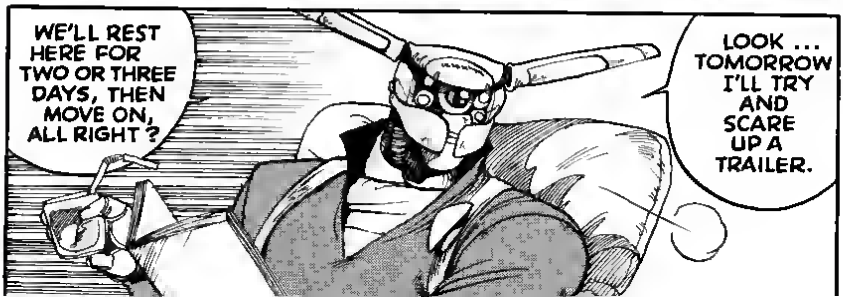
BRIAREOS!
BAM
FX SCREEECH
FX VRMM VRMM
DEUNAN!
RAISE THE SHUTTER, WILL YOU?
OKAY!
FX GRNNN
WELCOME HOME.
YO, THERE.
FX GRNNNN

.....
REALLY...
DESERT ALL AROUND. THE TOWN'S CUT OFF.
NOT GOOD.
HOW DOES IT LOOK?
...I FOUND TRACES OF BIOCHEM WEAPONS.
?
THAT'S NOT THE WORST OF IT. THIS TOWN WASN'T JUST ABANDONED ...
.....
SURE. START PLANTING FIELDS, FARMER BRI.
ARE WE GOING TO BE ABLE TO GET BY?
BUT I'M AFRAID THIS IS IT FOR SUPPLIES. WHAT DO YOU THINK?
WELL, IT LOOKS LIKE THEY USED SARIN* OR SOMETHING SIMILAR... SHOULD BE SAFE BY NOW.
WHAT?!
SO ALL THE FOOD WE'VE COLLECTED..?!
THUD

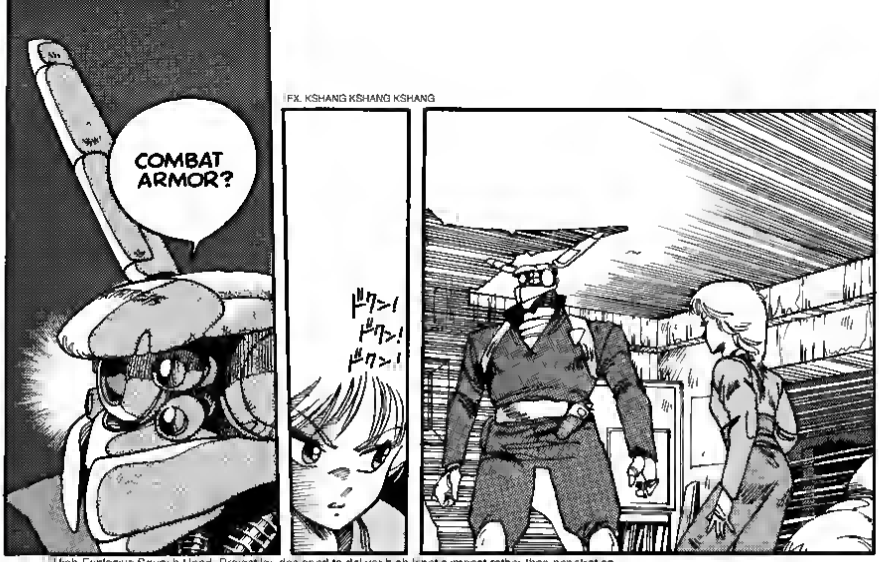
*Sarin: a rapid-dispersal nerve gas
Lethal dose 1mmg (0.000000035 oz.)

SAY...

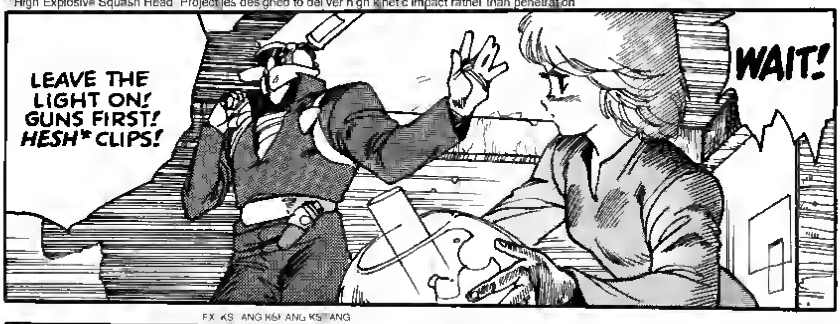
NO WAY!
YOU FEELING LONELY?
...WE'RE THE ONLY LIVING THINGS AROUND HERE, AREN'T WE...

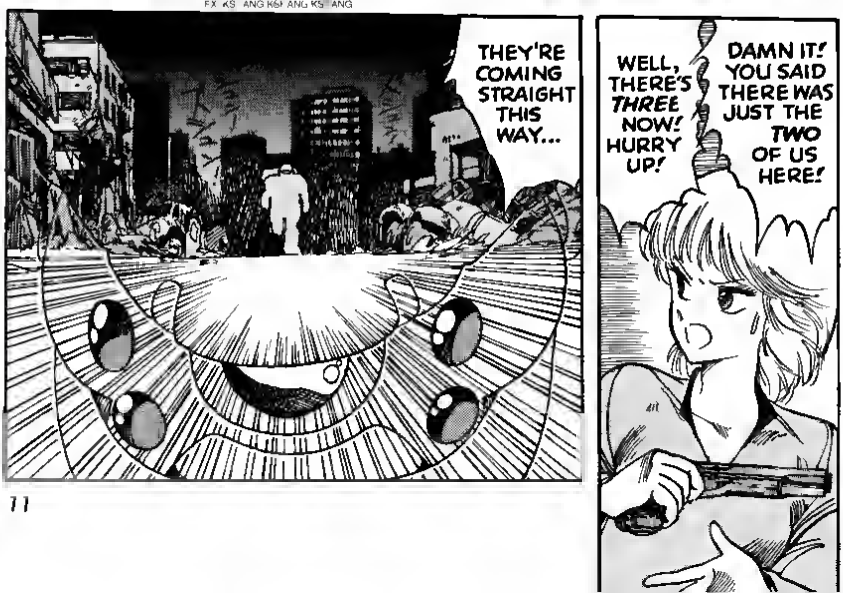

WE'LL REST HERE FOR TWO OR THREE DAYS, THEN MOVE ON, ALL RIGHT?
LOOK ... TOMORROW I'LL TRY AND SCARE UP A TRAILER.

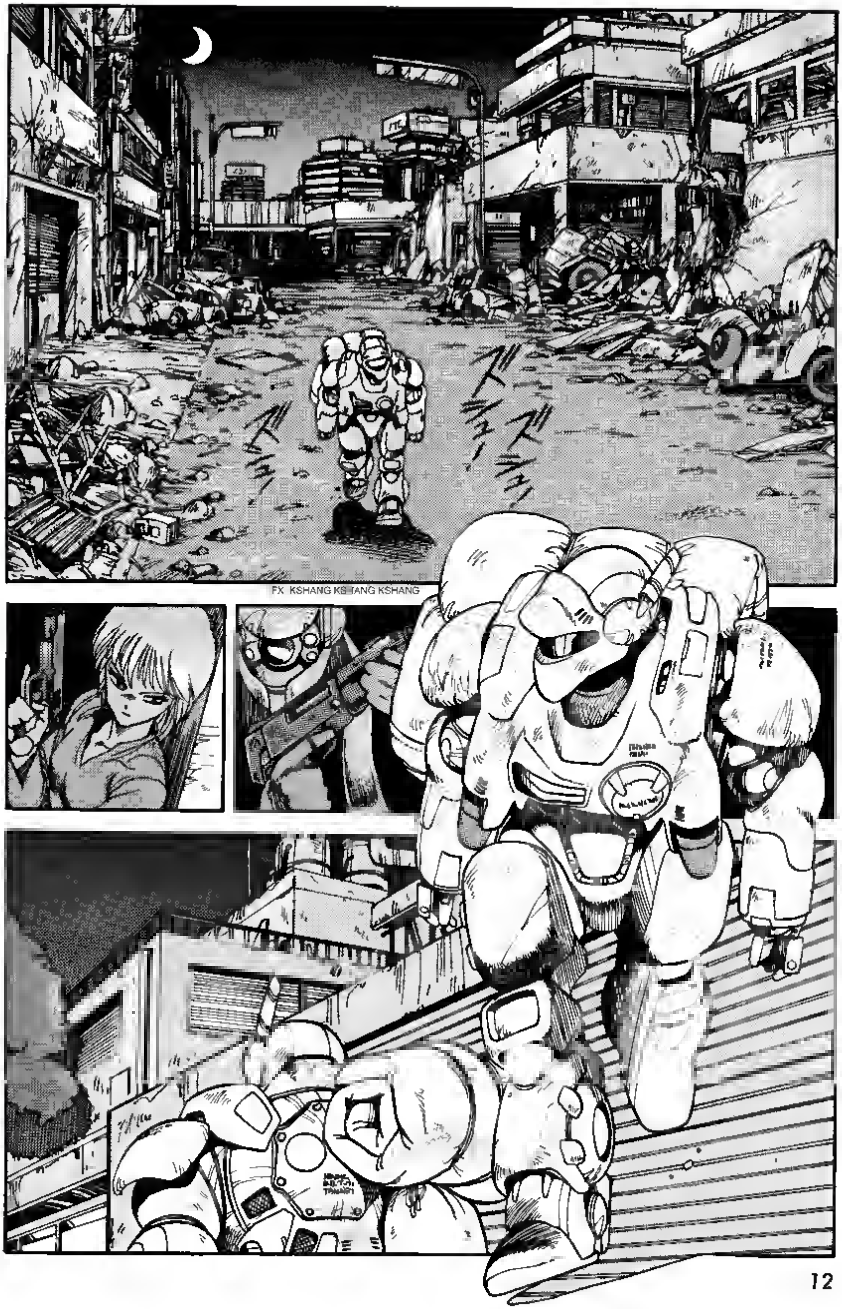
SURE...
FX GURGLLL
TONIGHT, DEUNAN'S SPECIAL BOUILLABAISSE! ♡
RIGHT! I ALMOST FORGOT! DINNER!!
OH... GREAT...
THAT DOES IT!
N-NO... WAIT!
THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT! I WAS JUST, uh, OVERWHELMED WITH DELIGHT... REALLY...
...?...
WHAT'S WRO...
SHH!

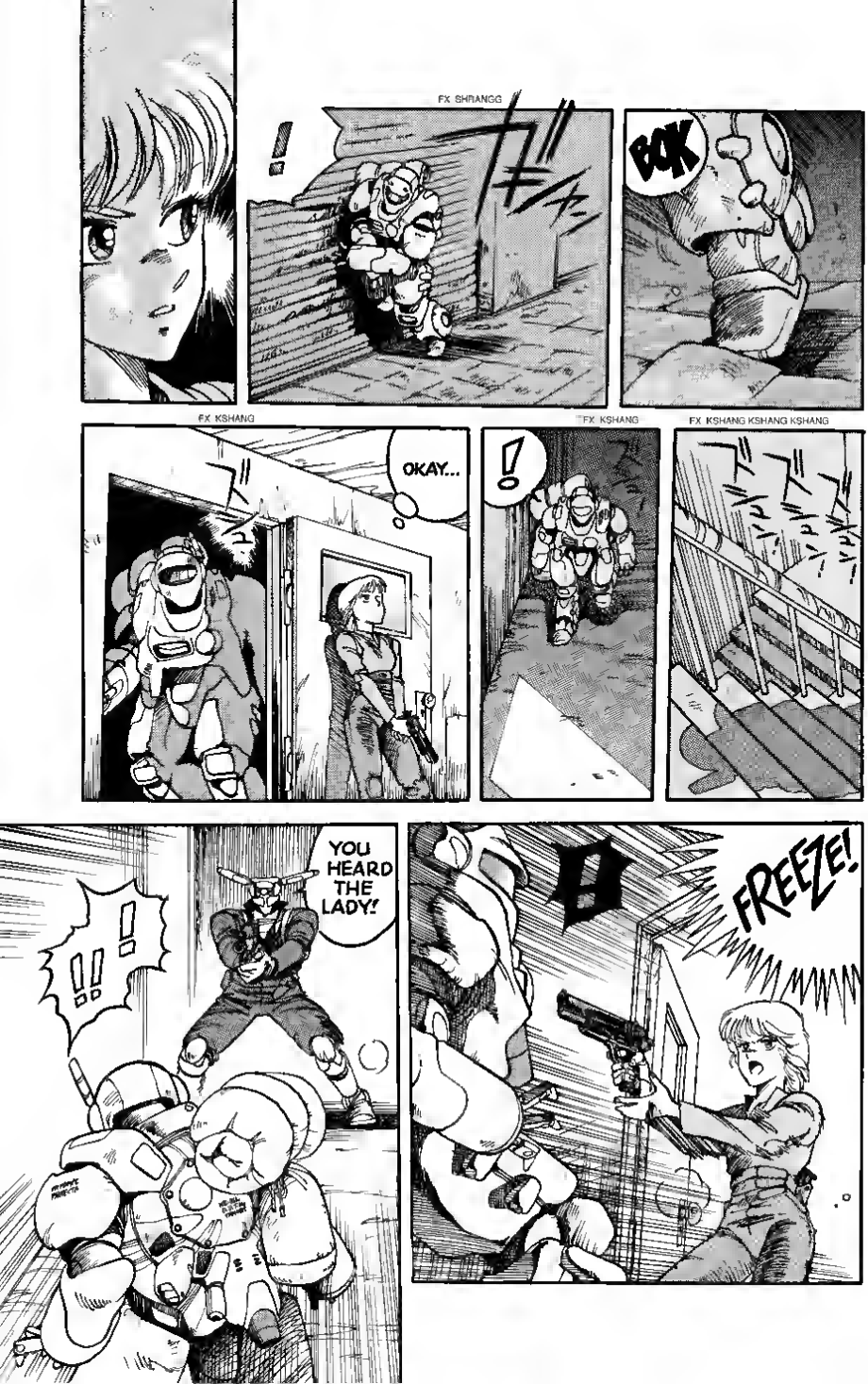


*High Explosive Squash Head. Projectiles designed to deliver high kinetic impact rather than penetration




FX. KSHANG KSHANG KSHANG
THEY'RE COMING STRAIGHT THIS WAY...
WELL, THERE'S THREE NOW! HURRY UP!
DAMN IT! YOU SAID THERE WAS JUST THE TWO OF US HERE!

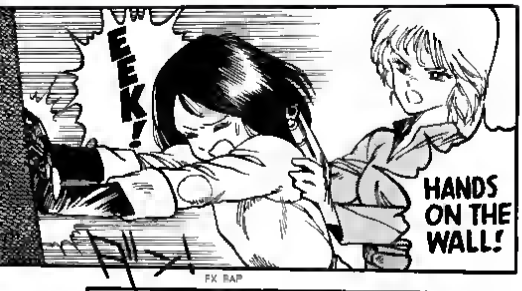

FX: KSHANG KSHANG KSHANG


FX: SHRANGG
!
BOK
FX: KSHANG
OKAY...
FX: KSHANG
!
FX: KSHANG KSHANG KSHANG
YOU HEARD THE LADY!
!!
FREEZE!

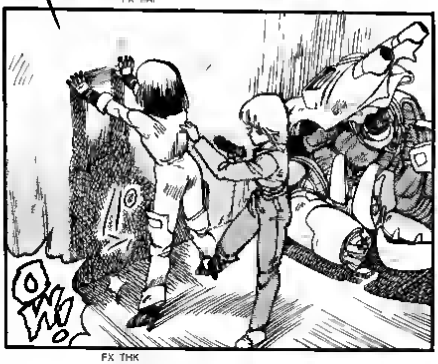
FX TWITCH
FX SKREE
EH!
FX SLAM SLAM
FX WHOO
IT'S OKAY... I'M USED TO SHRAPNEL.
DEUNAN!
FX KSHANG KSHANG

WHAT TH--?!
"TO HITOMI FROM YOSHI"... WHAT THE HELL...?!
??
OUT COLD...
A PICTURE OF US?!
?
HEY! TAKE A LOOK AT THIS!
WHA!
FX KLIK
FX CLENCH
IT SEEMS OUR GUEST IS AWAKE AGAIN, SO LET'S JUST ASK.
SHRANGG
HANG ON...
JUST WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON HERE?! WHO IS THIS?!

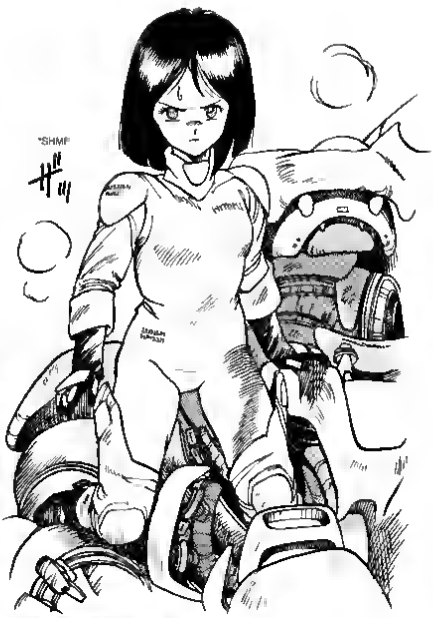
.....
NICE AND SLOW, NOW...
PEEL NOW, TALK LATER!
WAI...
LET'S START BY POPPING THAT ARMOR, SHALL WE?
Whsss
Ping!
FX GCHNK
Ikh!
GET UP!
TAKE OVER! TAKE OVER! I'M BAD AT THIS...
WELL, NOW... THIS MUST BE "HITOMI."


EEEK!
HANDS ON THE WALL!

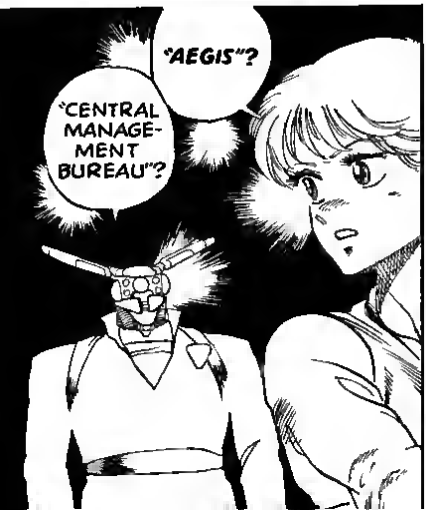
FX RAP

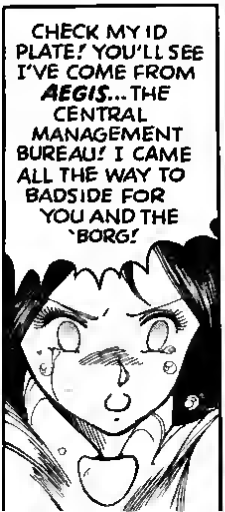

OH NO!

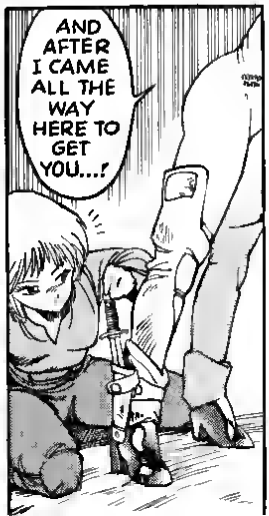
FX THK


*SHMF

CHILDREN SHOULDN'T PLAY WITH BATTLE ARMOR. EVER HEAR OF "BREAKING AND ENTERING"? HOW ABOUT "ATTEMPTED MURDER"?
IDIOT!
SAVAGES!


"AEGIS"?
"CENTRAL MANAGE-MENT BUREAU"?


CHECK MY ID PLATE! YOU'LL SEE I'VE COME FROM AEGIS... THE CENTRAL MANAGEMENT BUREAU! I CAME ALL THE WAY TO BADSIDE FOR YOU AND THE 'BORG!

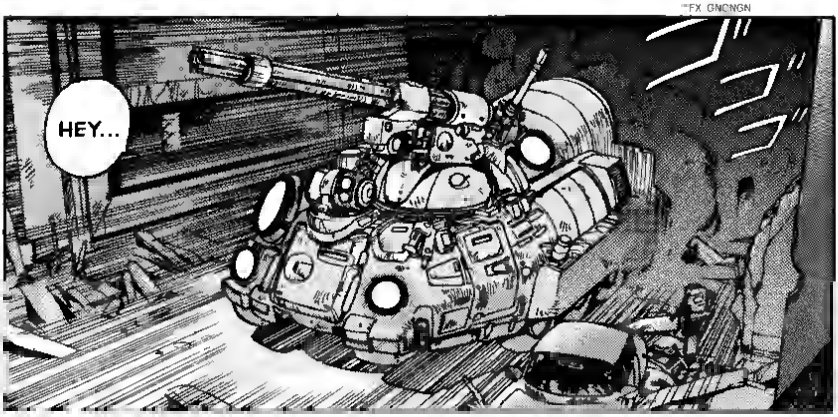

AND AFTER I CAME ALL THE WAY HERE TO GET YOU...!

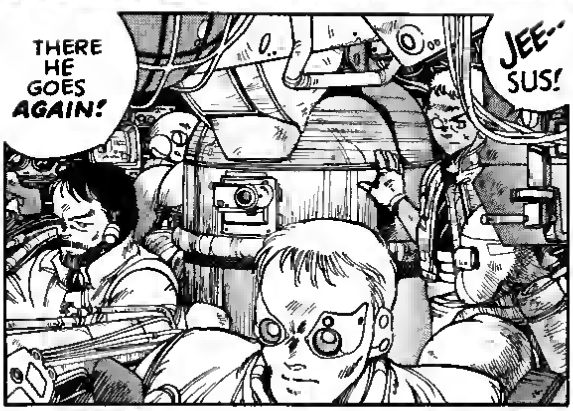
FX: GNGNGN

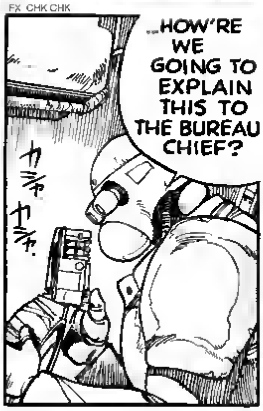
FX: GCHUNK

FX: GRNGRNGRN

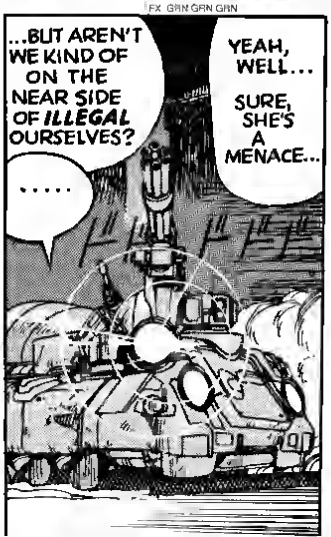
FX: FSSHH


FX GNONGN
HEY...


THERE HE GOES AGAIN!
JEE-- SUS!


FX CHK CHK
...HOW'RE WE GOING TO EXPLAIN THIS TO THE BUREAU CHIEF?

COME ON... SINCE WHEN IS WAR LEGAL OR ILLEGAL?


FX GRN GRN GRN
...BUT AREN'T WE KIND OF ON THE NEAR SIDE OF ILLEGAL OURSELVES?
.....
YEAH, WELL... SURE, SHE'S A MENACE...

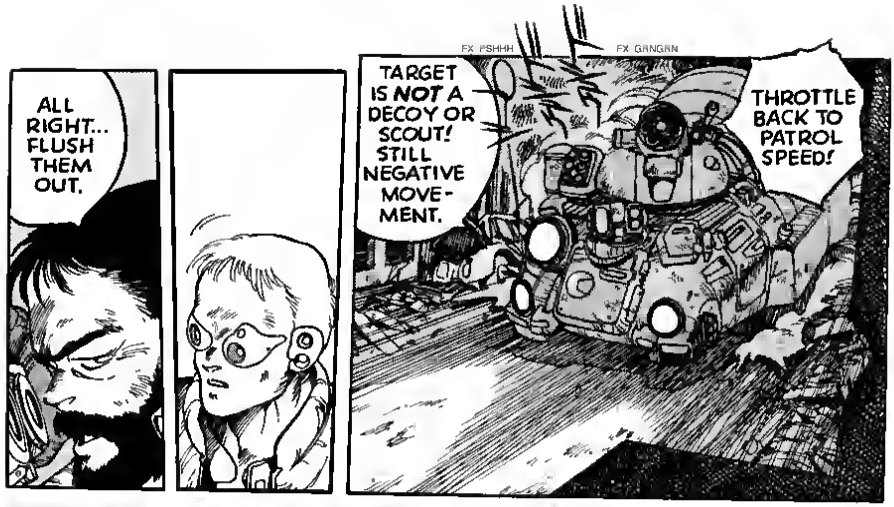
NONE OF US WILL GET IT.
LOOK, CALM DOWN. JUST LEAVE IT TO ME...

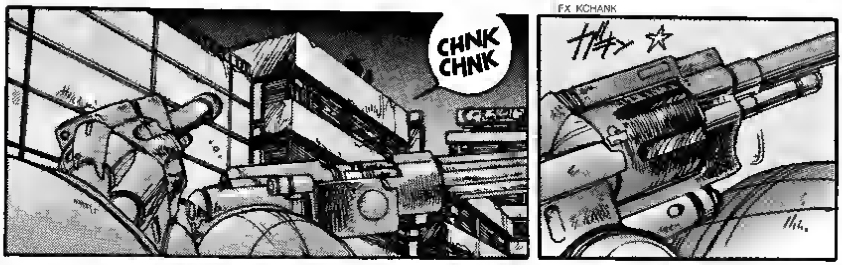
YOU SHUT UP!
THEY-- THEY MUST BE...!
WHAT?!
MORE ON THE WAY.
WAIT! WHERE...
GET YOUR BODY ARMOR! HURRY!
FX KACHAK
LISTEN TO ME! JUST LISTEN!
FX CHANK
FX KSHANN

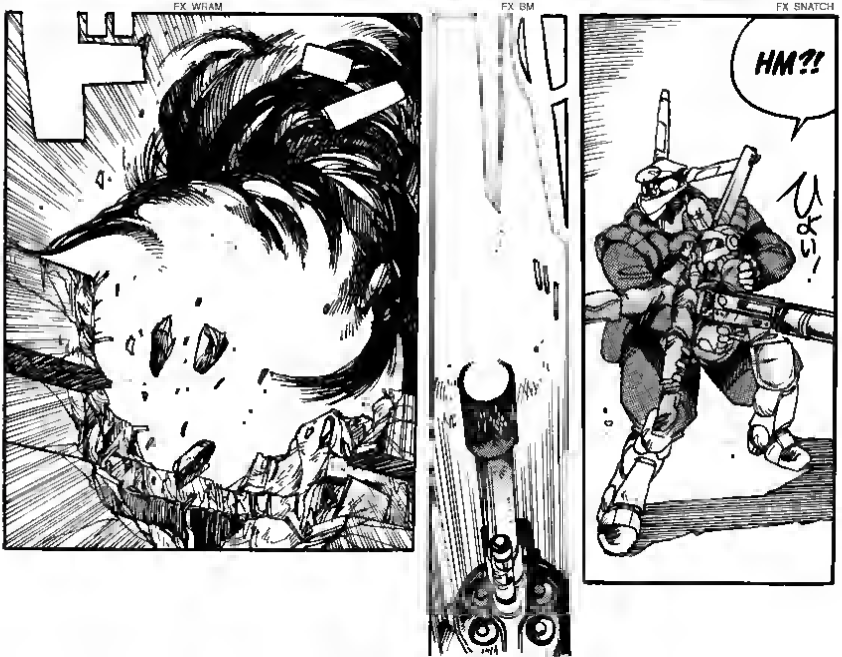
SOLO
BITCH!
BEAST!
SLUT!
THERE YOU GO... HAVE FUN.
FX BAM
FX CLIK
FX ZZZP!
WE'LL JUST HAVE TO--
SO WHAT DO YOU THINK?
MAYBE IT'S FULL OF INORGANIC ANDROIDS.
HEAVY ARMOR, THEN.
SOUNDS LIKE A LAND CRUISER... JUST ONE. IT'S MIGHTY SLOW FOR ALL THAT HORSE-POWER.
AND THE LETTERS... THAT MEANS A POSTAL SERVICE.
.....
THAT PICTURE. SPYSAT WORK, NO DOUBT. ENLARGED AND ENHANCED.
NO, I MEAN-- WHAT SHE SAID.

FX CLICK
...ARE INTERESTED IN US.
FSU!
AND THEY...
OBVIOUSLY, THE WAR'S OVER, AND NOW THERE'S SOME KIND OF MAMMOTH NEW ORGANIZATION.
THAT MUCH WE KNOW.
FX KSHOOM
WHSST

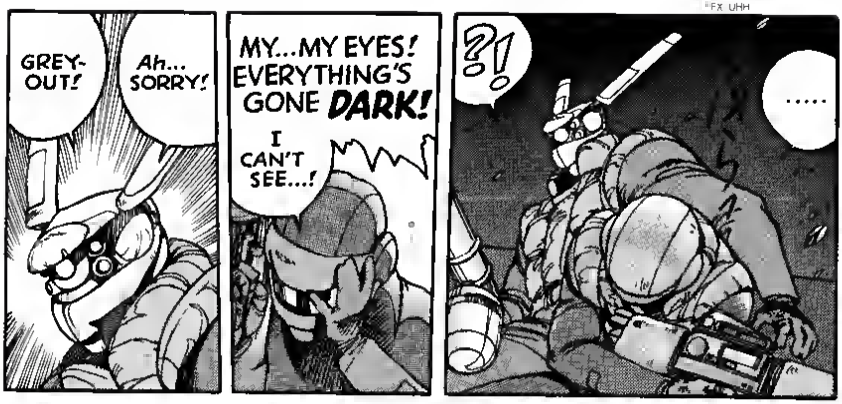
ALWAYS ANNOYING, GOING UP AGAINST SOLDIERS ...
Hmmm... IT'S A HARD CALL.
PERHAPS SET SOME BOOBY TRAPS TO GET THEM SPREAD OUT?
MIGHT NOT BE ABLE TO CRACK IT WITH H.E.A.T.* ROUNDS...
*High Explosive Anti-Tank
*FX: GNGNGN
*FX: SPKK SPKK
GULP!
.....
*FX: TKTKTK
*FX: BEEP
LEVEL THREE COMBAT ALERT!
I'VE GOT SOUND SOURCES AHEAD--QUADRANT TWO, ELEVEN O'CLOCK! HEARTBEATS AND MICROSERVOS! IT'S NOT OUR TARGET... IT'S SOMEONE ELSE!

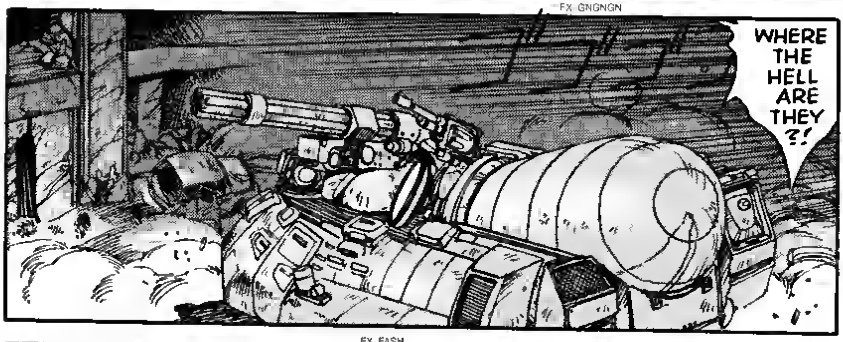

ALL RIGHT... FLUSH THEM OUT.
FX PSHHH
FX GRNGRN
TARGET IS NOT A DECOY OR SCOUT! STILL NEGATIVE MOVE-MENT.
THROTTLE BACK TO PATROL SPEED!

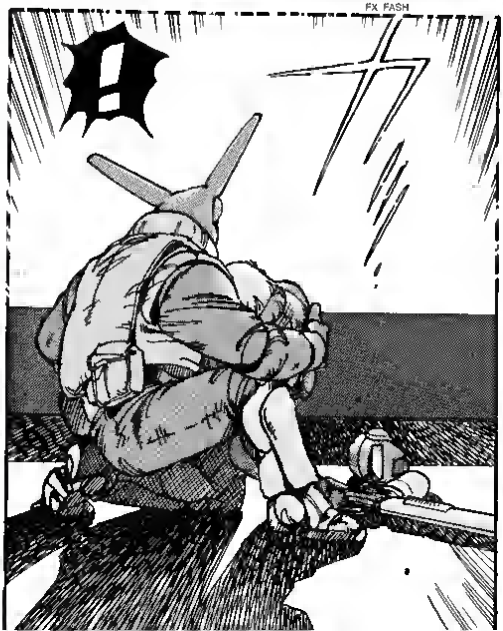

CHNK CHNK
FX KCHANK

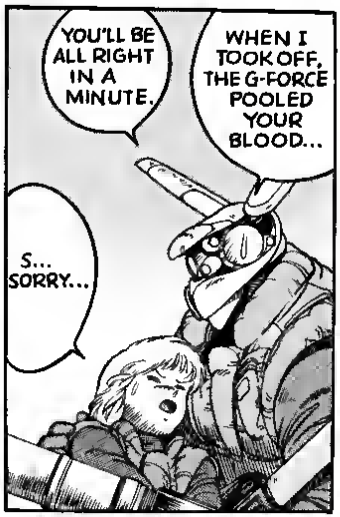

FX WRAM
FX BM
FX SNATCH
HM?!
ひよい!

I TRACKED MOVEMENT JUST BEFORE IMPACT! TARGET IS OFF OUR PASSIVE SENSORS!
BOOST THE HULL CURRENT!
FX KRAK KRAK
FX FOOM



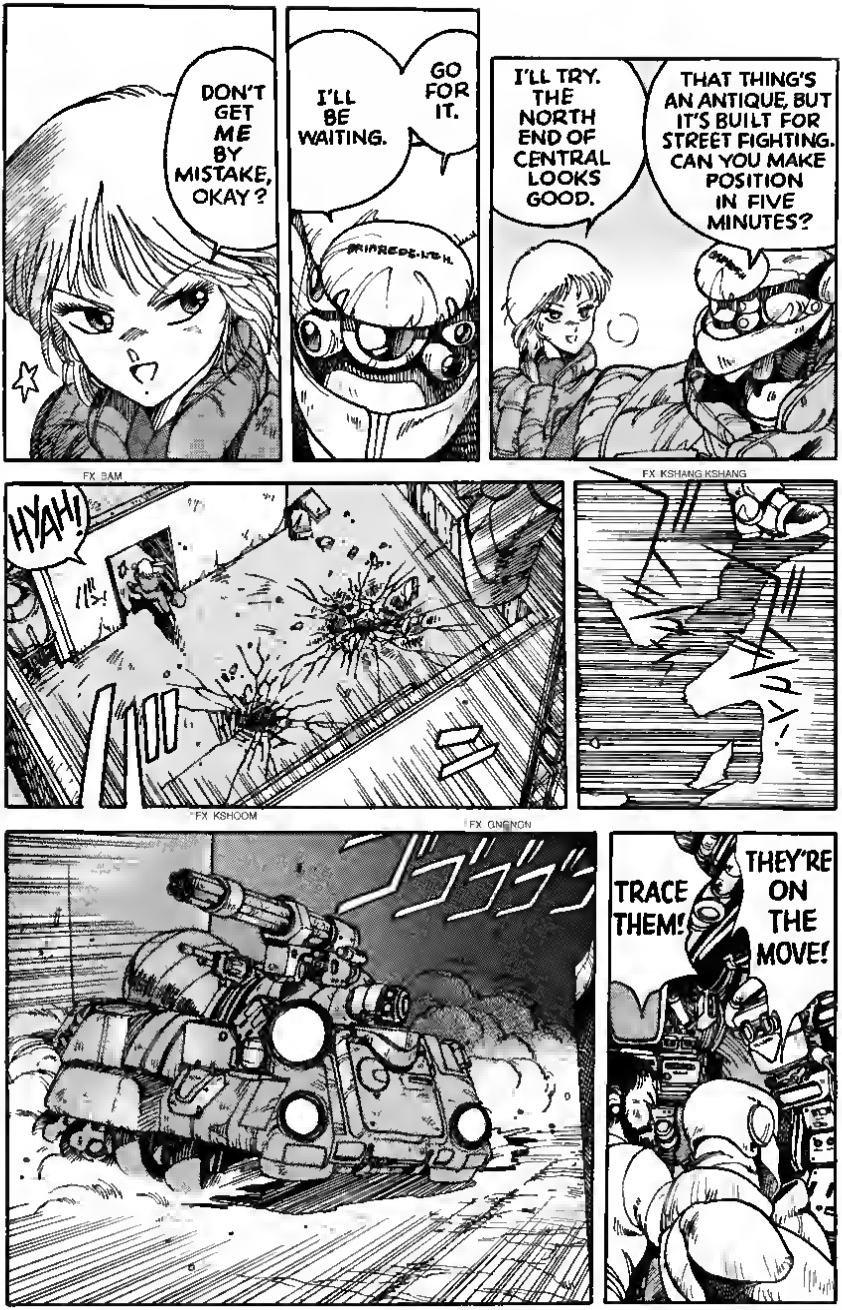






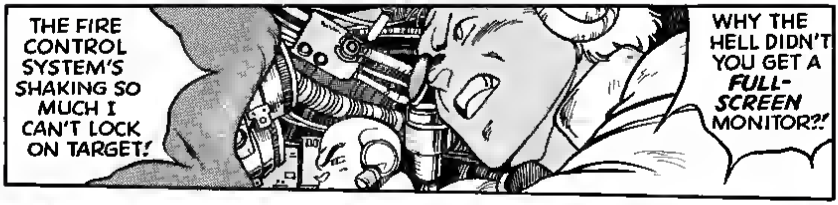
*g=Unit of gravity acceleration—980cm/sec^2
Grayout occurs from 5g and up

FX GNGNGNGN
ゴゴゴゴ
FX VZZZT SSSSSSS
SO KILL THEM NOW OR KILL THEM LATER... WHO CARES!
THOSE TWO... THEY MUST BE THE ONES HITOMI WAS SENT TO CONTACT...
ALL QUIET. NO RESPONSE AT ALL.
YOU READ ANYTHING?
YEAH. I'M SORRY-- I WAS TOO SLOW...
OKAY NOW?
BUT I GUESS WE DON'T HAVE MUCH OF A CHOICE ABOUT PICKING SIDES...
SO... THERE ARE AT LEAST TWO OPPOSING FORCES.
NO!NO! TAKE 'EM OUT RIGHT NOW...!
WAIT! WE CAN USE THEM AS BAIT TO GET HITOMI!
.....

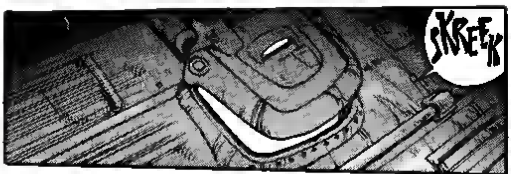

DON'T GET ME BY MISTAKE, OKAY?
I'LL BE WAITING.
GO FOR IT.
I'LL TRY. THE NORTH END OF CENTRAL LOOKS GOOD.
THAT THING'S AN ANTIQUE, BUT IT'S BUILT FOR STREET FIGHTING. CAN YOU MAKE POSITION IN FIVE MINUTES?
FX: BAM
HYAH!
FX: KSHANG KSHANG
FX: KSHOOM
FX: GNENON
TRACE THEM!
THEY'RE ON THE MOVE!

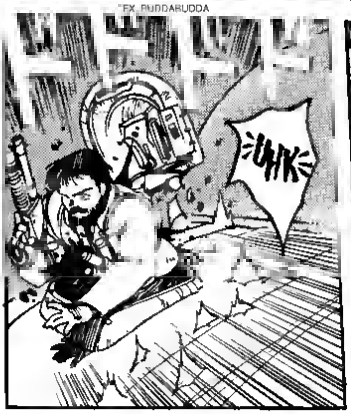
RRR
FX: BLAM BLAM
SUPPOSE YOU GET YOURSELVES KILLED! THEN WHAT ABOUT ME, Huh?!
HEY!
GRRRR...
WHROOM
JUST FAKES TO KEEP ME BUSY.
Hmph. I'M NO ZERO, ME. THAT'S THE OLDEST TRICK IN THE BOOK!
FX: KCHIK KCHIK KCHIK KCHIK KCHIK KCHIK KCHIK KCHIK
FX: CHANGG
FX: GLANCE
MAYBE THIS ONE...? OR THIS! THIS ONE...?
RRR! WHAT ABOUT THIS ONE?
ARR... NO GOOO.
Eh?
NO, MAYBE THIS ONE...
STILL... THIS ONE LOOKS LIKE IT MIGHT ...
FX: WRAMM
FX: BUDDA BUDDA

FX: BOOM
THE GUNNER AND DRIVER ARE WAY OUT OF SYNCH. THESE GUYS ARE NOT PRO TANK CREW.
!?
FX: RUDDARUDDARUDDA
FX: KRANGG
GODDAMN IT, THAT'S JUST WHAT THEY WANT YOU TO DO! THEY'VE GOT MAJOR FIREPOWER OUT THERE!
SHIT!
THIS IS GETTING US NOWHERE. I'M GOING OUT THERE MYSELF, SO COVER ME!
THEY'RE MAKING FOOLS OF US!
CAN'T YOU IDIOTS HIT ANYTHING?!
FX: BAM


THE FIRE CONTROL SYSTEM'S SHAKING SO MUCH I CAN'T LOCK ON TARGET!
WHY THE HELL DIDN'T YOU GET A FULL-SCREEN MONITOR?!

*FX VRRRRTT
SHIT!

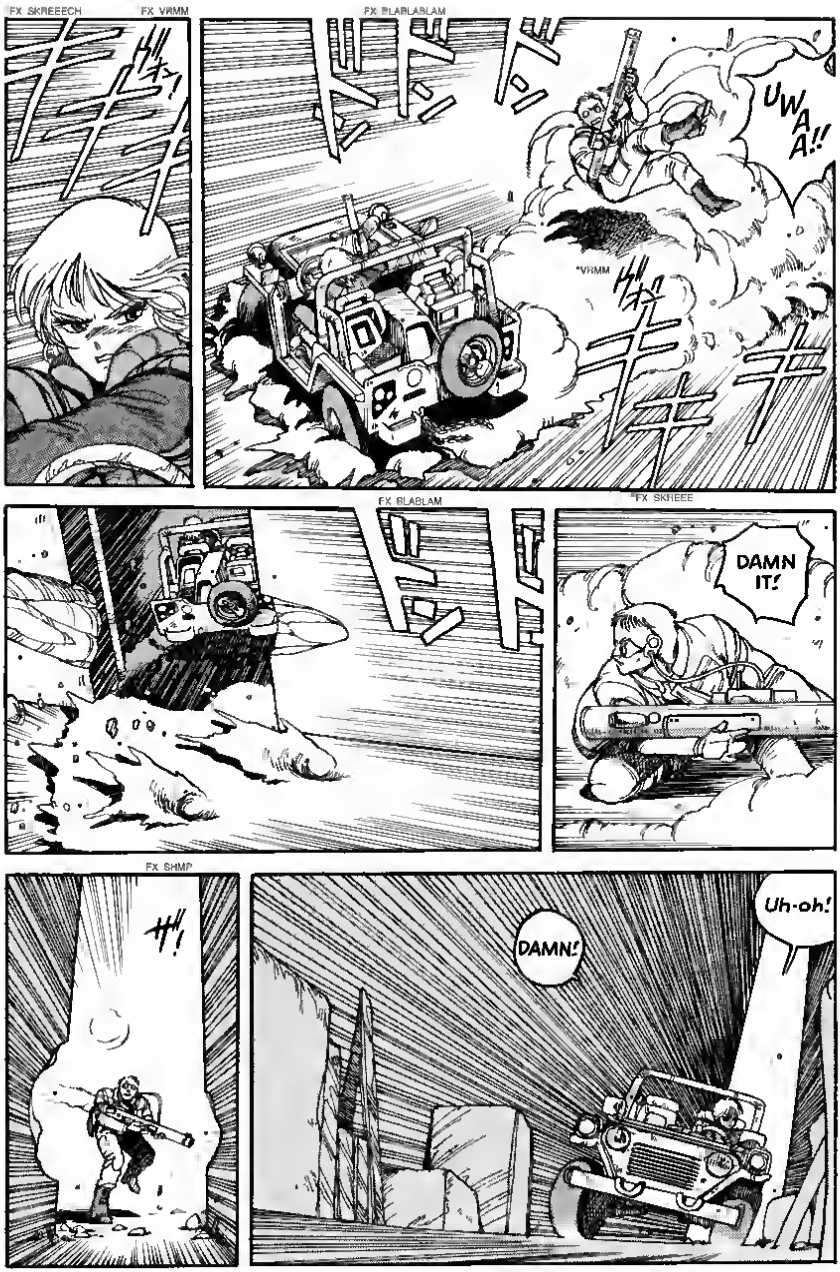

SKREEK


*FX PUDDARUDDA
UHK

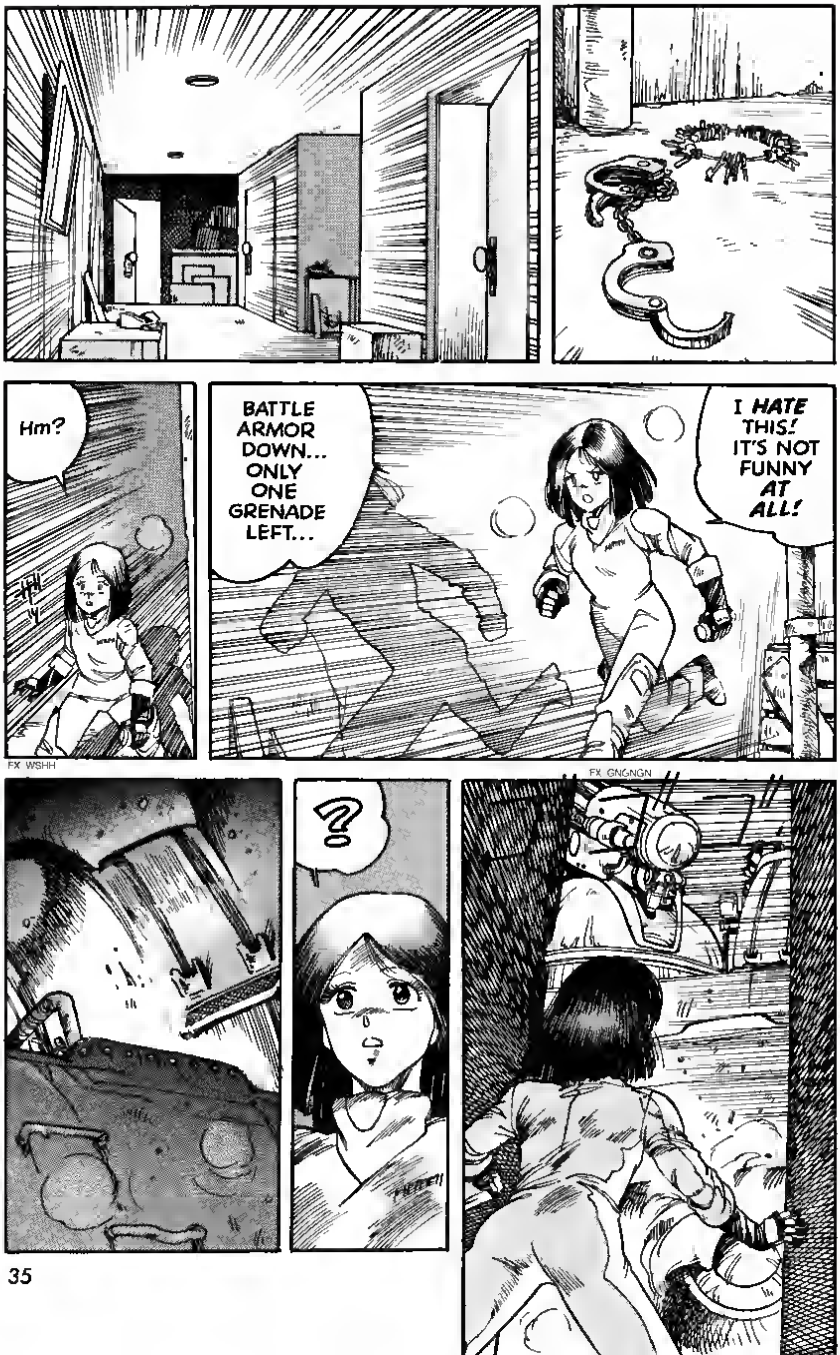
FX KCHAK

FX VRRTT
WAAH!

GODDAMN IT! YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO COVER HIM!
THEY BLEW THE HATCH!
GAHH!
BARREL'S OVERHEATED! THE SUPERCONDUCTIVE COOLING SYSTEM IS OUT!
GODDAMN IT! I KNEW THAT FANCY CRAP WOULD NEVER WORK IN COMBAT!
HEY! IT WON'T FIRE!
SFX: FINISHING
SON OF A BITCH!


FX SKREEECH
FX VRMM
FX BLABLABLAM
UWA A!!
VRMM
FX BLABLAM
FX SKREEE
DAMN IT!
FX SHMP
DAMN!
Uh-oh!

*FX. FUDDASUDDA
FX. BLABLAM
GHKK!
FX. VRRM VRRM
THUD
SKREEE

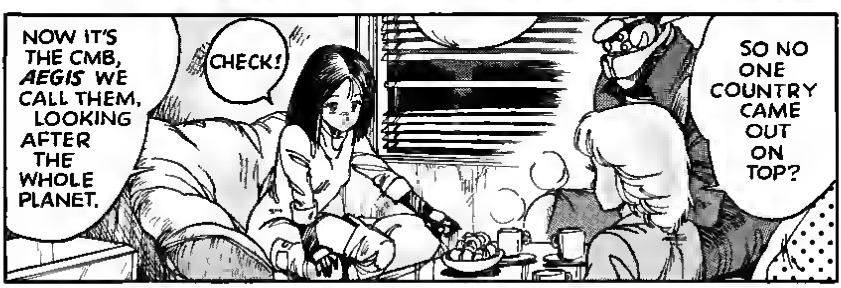

Hm?
BATTLE ARMOR DOWN... ONLY ONE GRENADE LEFT...
I HATE THIS! IT'S NOT FUNNY AT ALL!
FX: WSHH
FX: GNGNGN
?

FX CLIK CLIK
EMPTY!
チャ!
FX KANG
!
!
FX WHSSSTT
FX CHNK CHNK

SEE YOU IN HELL, BOYS.
FX: VRRTT
I'VE GOT HIM NOW!
FX: CLK
FX: KLT KLT
Huh?
FX: VRRT
WHAT?
Huh? WHADJA SAY?
FX: WHROOM

PAK
PAK
PAK
PAK
KRMM
FX: WHOK
GHH!
THAT'S IT?!
WHOOO...
DON'T ASK ME!
WHAT HAPPENED?
TA-DAA!

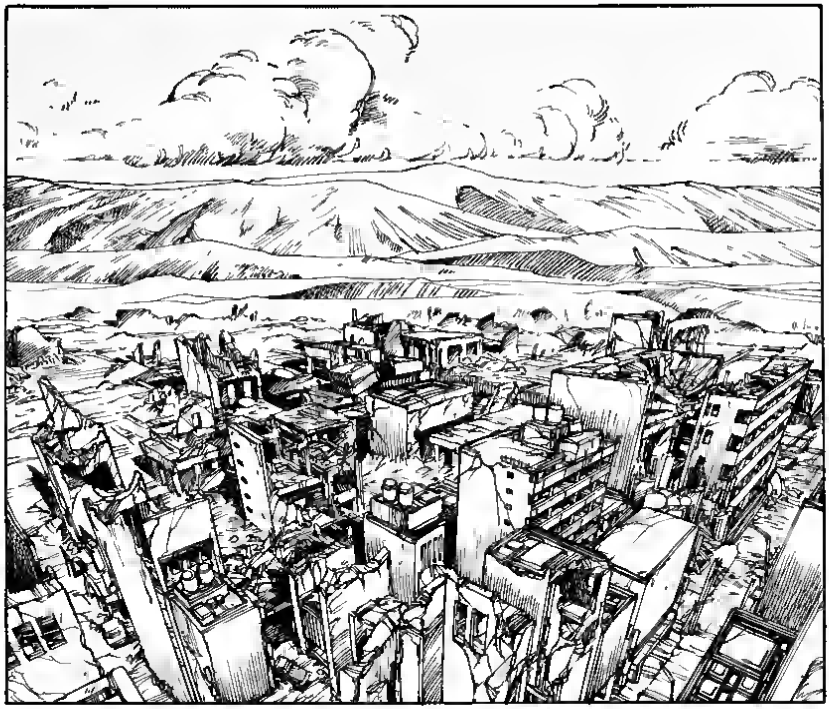
THE EARTH'S BEEN *UNIFIED* BY THIS "CENTRAL MANAGEMENT BUREAU"?!


NOW IT'S THE CMB, *AEGIS* WE CALL THEM, LOOKING AFTER THE WHOLE PLANET.
CHECK!
SO NO ONE COUNTRY CAME OUT ON TOP?

HOLD ON. I THOUGHT YOU SAID "TOTAL DISARMAMENT." THAT WAS A PRETTY TOUGH BUNCH OUT THERE...
WE... WE HAD *NO* IDEA!

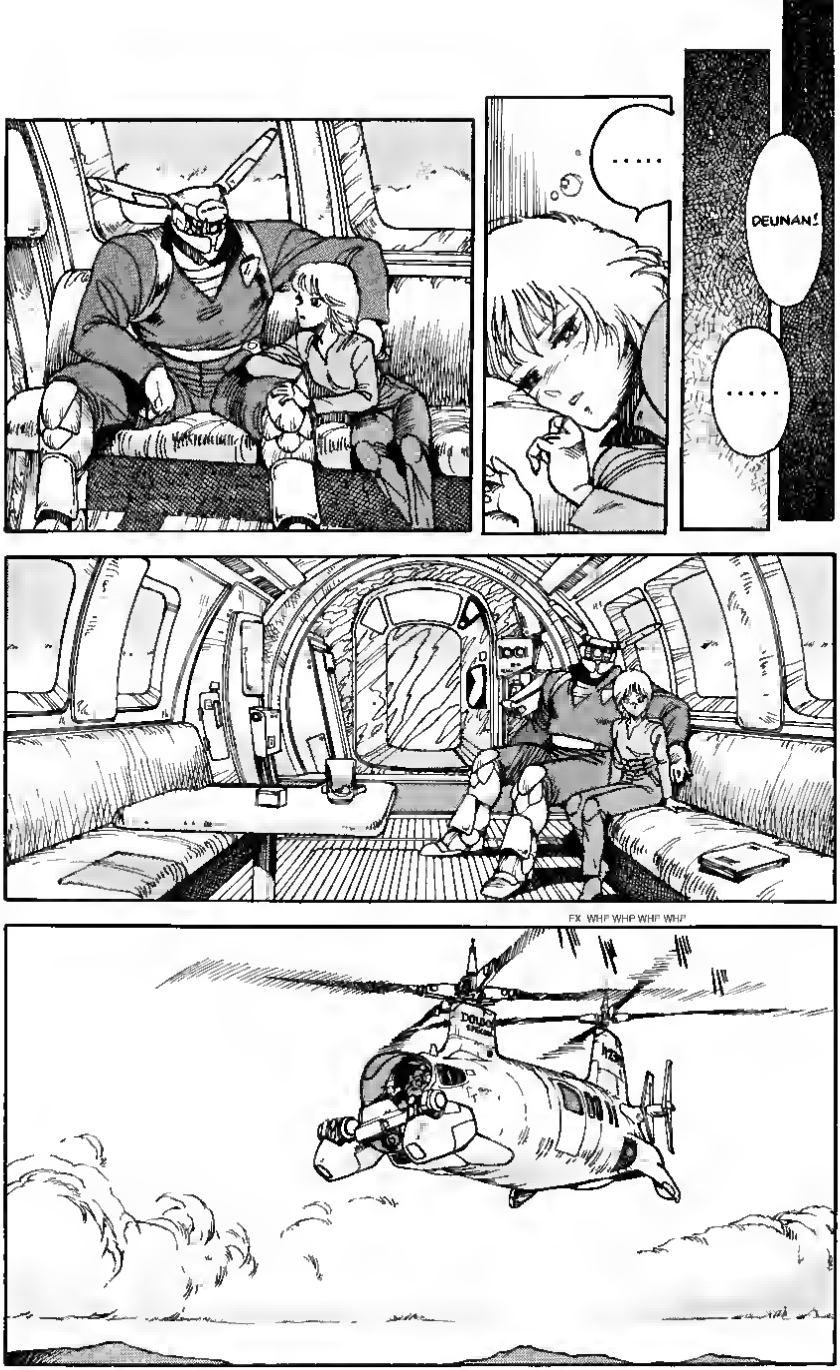
THEN, AS PART OF THE PLAN, WE'VE BEEN COMING OUT TO BADSIDE HERE, LOOKING FOR SOLOS LIKE YOU AND BRINGING THEM BACK TO OLYMPUS CITY, WHERE *AEGIS* IS SET UP.
OF COURSE, OTHER THAN TOTAL DISARMAMENT AND THE SUPER-VISION OF TRADE AND ECONOMY, EVERY COUNTRY'S PRETTY MUCH FREE TO DO AS THEY PLEASE.

SHOULD WE GO?
SO WHAT DO YOU THINK?
THOSE GUYS SEEMED DIFFERENT, SOMEHOW . . .
Hmm...
Oh, FOR SURE, THERE'RE TERRORISTS, BANDITS, SOME GUYS STILL PLAYING WARTIME. MOST OF THE WORLD'S STILL BADSIDE, LIKE THIS TOWN.
Oh? HOW DO YOU FIGURE THAT?
WE'LL WIND UP STAYING THERE ANYWAY.
THAT'S OKAY!
Mm!
WELL, I'M NOT PROMISING WE'LL SETTLE DOWN THERE.
BECAUSE YOU'D MAKE A LOUSY FARMER!
AT LAST! REAL FOOD!



OKAY? LISTEN UP!
FX: SHFF
!
LOOK EVERYWHERE AT ONCE! MARK ANYTHING THAT MOVES PULL THE TRIGGER BEFORE YOU SEE THE TARGET!
ANYTIME YOU LOOK RIGHT, LOOK LEFT! ANYTIME YOU LOOK UP, LOOK DOWN!
FX: FAFFAP
UFF!
KEEP YOUR FEELINGS OUT OF THIS, BRIAREOS!
CARL! LET HER REST, DAMN IT! YOU DON'T NEED TO MAKE YOUR OWN DAUGHTER...
I TOLD YOU TO KEEP YOUR EYES MOVING! THOSE AREN'T REAL BULLETS... CHECK LATER!

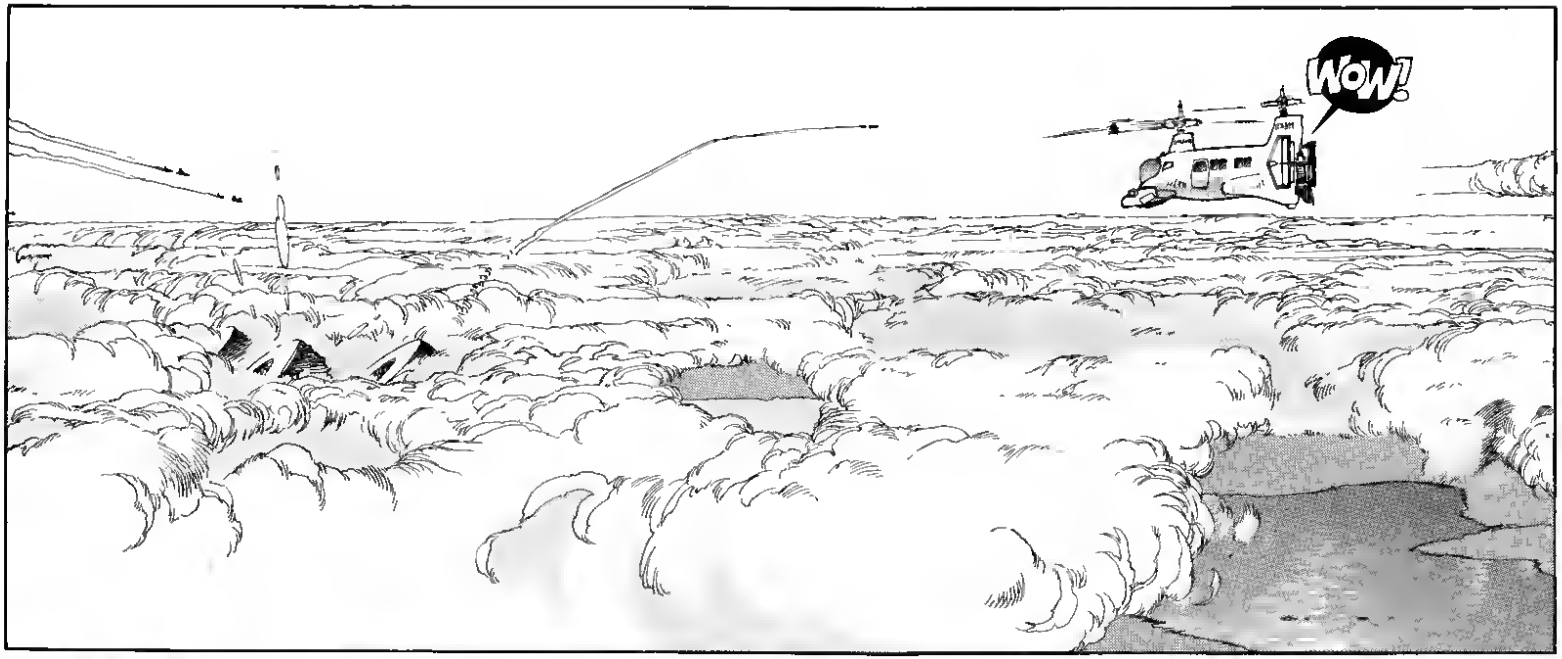
DEUNAN! HIT ANYTHING THAT LOOKS SUSPICIOUS. DON'T HESITATE... THE TARGETS ARE ARMED!
WHAT ARE YOU TRAINING HER FOR, CARL? THIS ISN'T DELTA FORCE!
SO WHY?!
FX ZZZK
!
WHSS
HHHE
CAN'T YOU DO ANYTHING RIGHT?! IF THIS WAS REAL COMBAT YOU'D BE DEAD!
DON'T JUST LIE THERE!
DEU-NAN!
DEUNAN! WHAT'S WRONG?

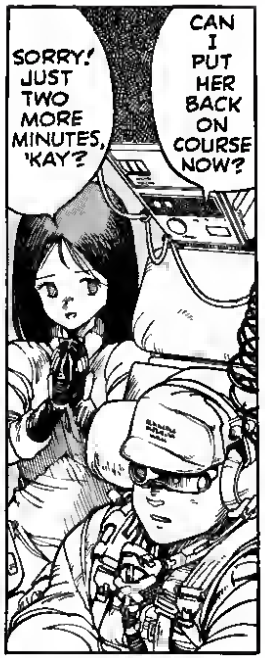

.....
DEUNAN!
.....
FX: WHP WHP WHP WHP

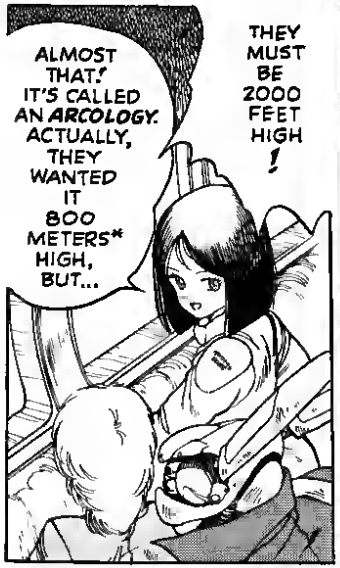
*Olympus: here, the name of the city where the Comprehensive Administration Bureau is. Also the name of a mountain located in northern Greece, the country's highest peak at 2885m, on whose summit the gods lived in Greek mythology.

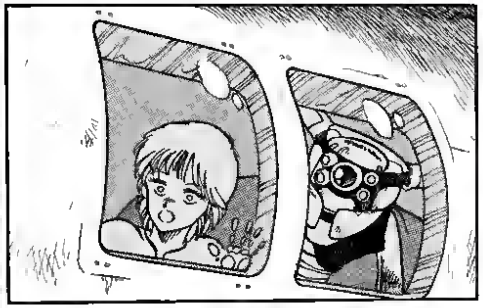
COME ON...YOU SHOULD LOOK...
CHK
HI! IN JUST A FEW MINUTES, YOU'LL BE ABLE TO SEE OLYMPUS,* OUR CENTRAL CITY.
A... ALL RIGHT!
GET OUT!
FX: KCHAK
FX: BAM
IT WAS SO MUCH EASIER IN S.W.A.T.*... YOU ALWAYS KNEW WHAT TO DO...
Whew...

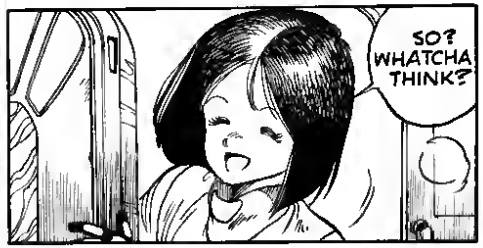
*S.W.A.T.: Special Weapons and Tactics. A special zed police unit that carries out dangerous operations.



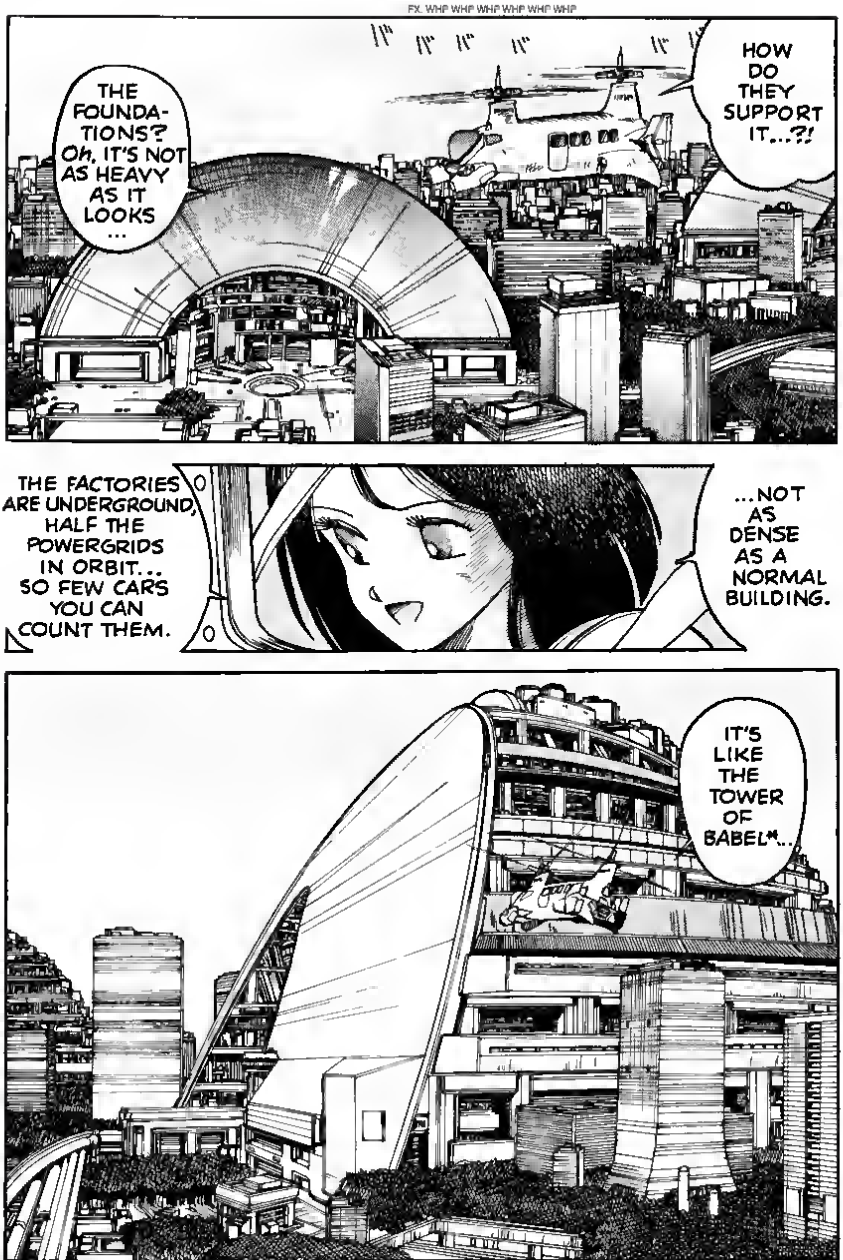




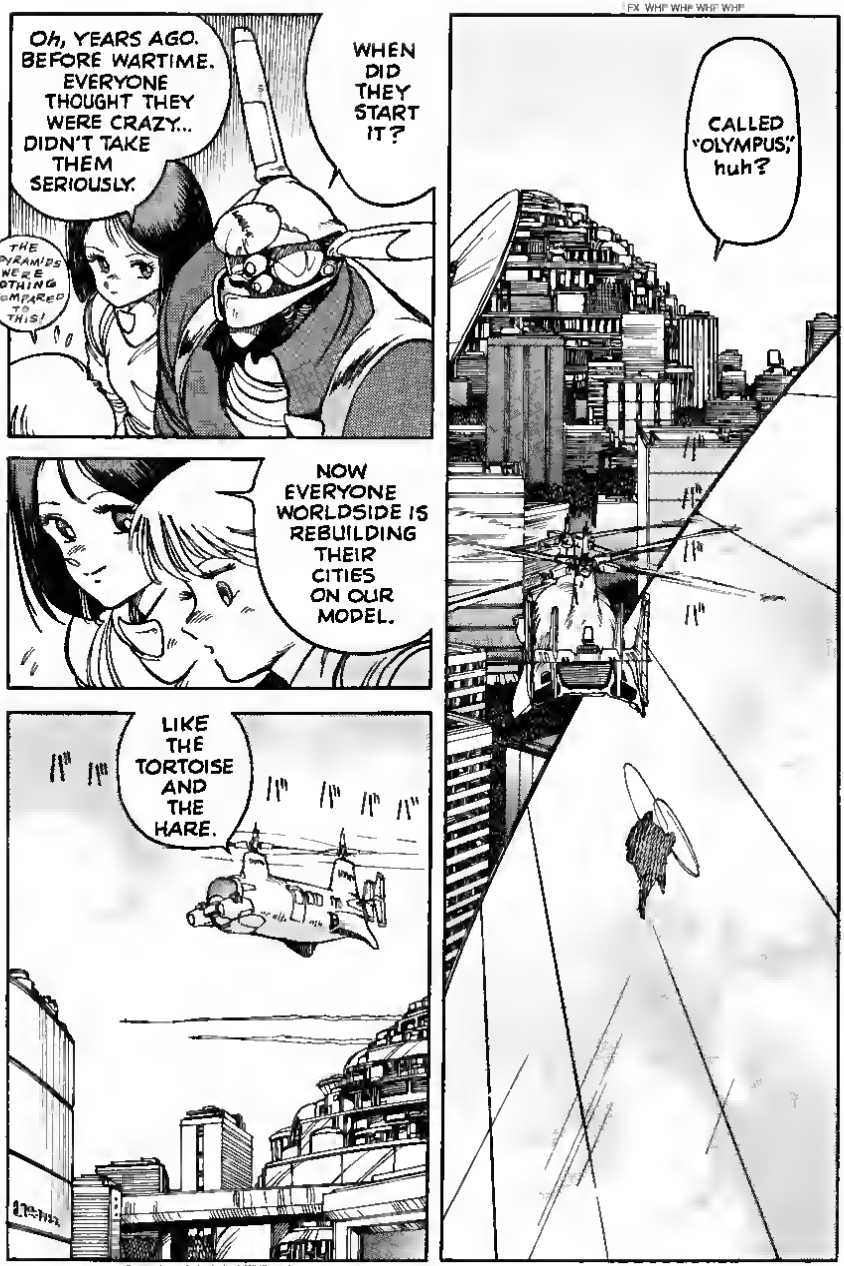




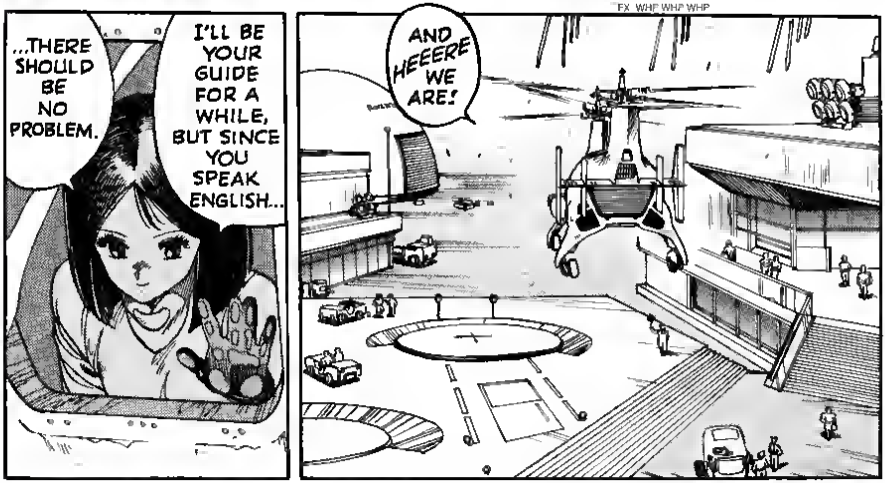
*800 meters–2626 feet.

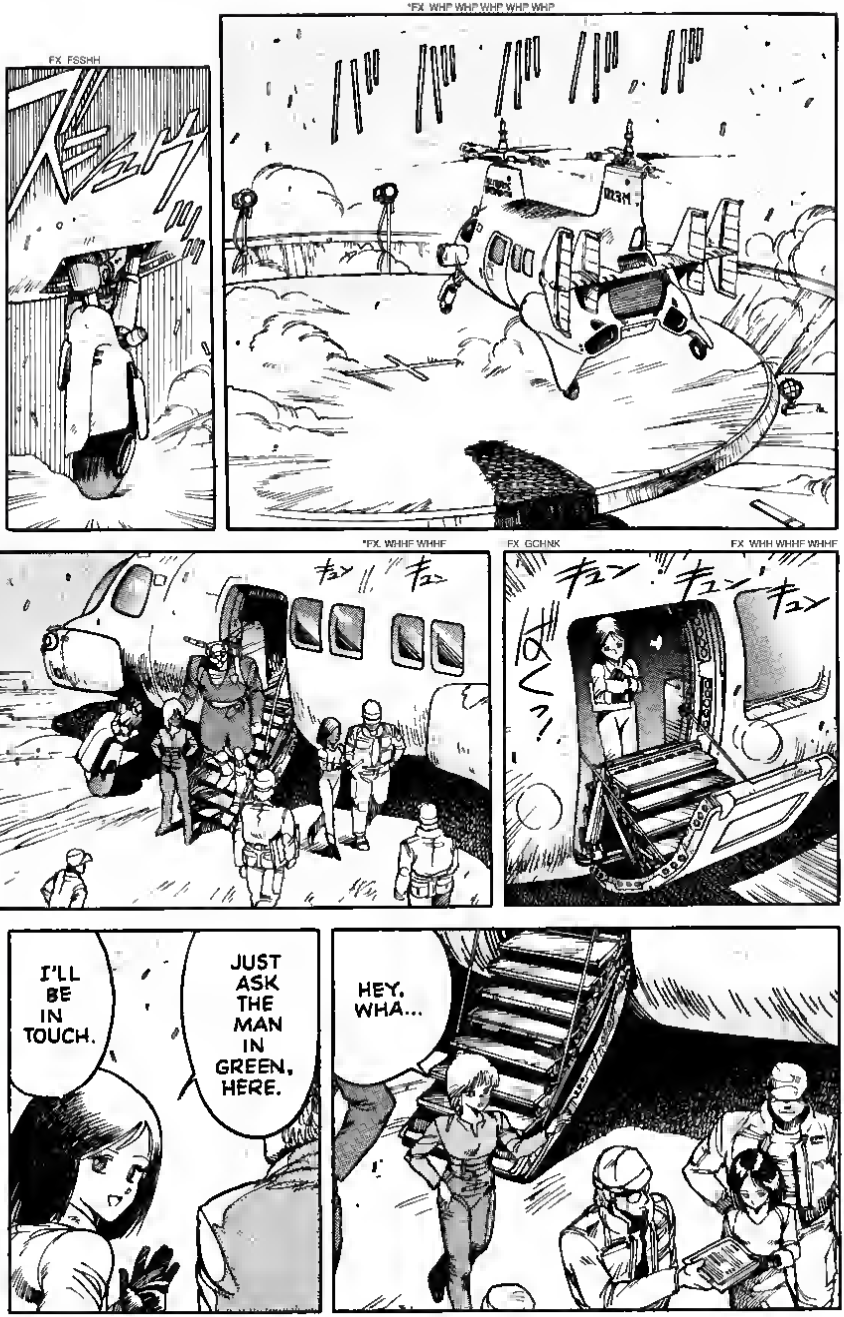

FX: WHP WHP WHP WHP WHP WHP
THE FOUNDATIONS? Oh, IT'S NOT AS HEAVY AS IT LOOKS ...
HOW DO THEY SUPPORT IT...?!
THE FACTORIES ARE UNDERGROUND, HALF THE POWERGRIDS IN ORBIT... SO FEW CARS YOU CAN COUNT THEM.
...NOT AS DENSE AS A NORMAL BUILDING.
IT'S LIKE THE TOWER OF BABEL*...

*Tower of Babel: a large seven story monument called Etemenanki in ancient Babylon enshrining the god Marduk boasting of a height of about 90m. It's also famous in an Old Testament story of a huge tower that reaches the heavens.


FX: WHP WHP WHP WHP
CALLED "OLYMPUS," huh?
WHEN DID THEY START IT?
Oh, YEARS AGO. BEFORE WARTIME. EVERYONE THOUGHT THEY WERE CRAZY... DIDN'T TAKE THEM SERIOUSLY.
THE PYRAMIDS WERE NOTHING COMPARED TO THIS!
NOW EVERYONE WORLDSIDE IS REBUILDING THEIR CITIES ON OUR MODEL.
LIKE THE TORTOISE AND THE HARE.
FX: WHP WHP WHP WHP WHP WHP

FX WHP WHP WHP WHP WHP

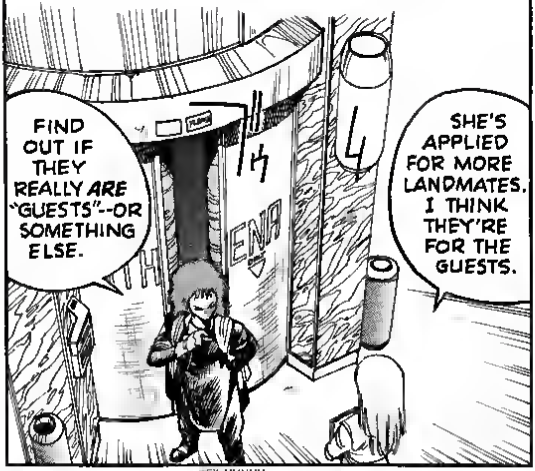

...THERE SHOULD BE NO PROBLEM.
I'LL BE YOUR GUIDE FOR A WHILE, BUT SINCE YOU SPEAK ENGLISH...
FX WHP WHP WHP
AND HEEERE WE ARE!

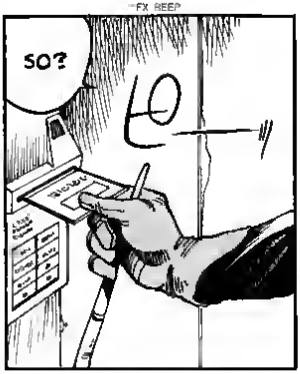

FX. FSSHH
KEN
*FX. WHF WHF WHF WHF WHF
*FX. WHHF WHHF
FX. GCHNK
FX. WHH WHHF WHHF
キュン
キュン
キュン
キュン
ばく?
I'LL BE IN TOUCH.
JUST ASK THE MAN IN GREEN, HERE.
HEY, WHA...

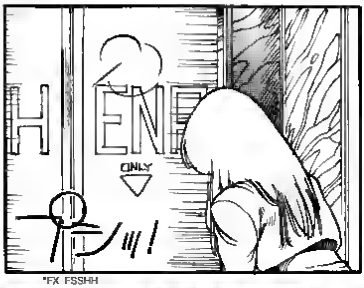
THEY'RE PUTTING US IN QUARAN-TINE!
?
WHA?!
BOY!
WHAT A DRAG...
PARTHENON STATION

OH!
SORRY!

FX PUFFF
BAD NEWS, I PRESUME?
Ah. SO THIS IS WHERE YOU WERE.
Hmm... REALLY...
THEY APPARENTLY ATTACKED SOME OF THE LOCAL SUPPORT TEAMS, AND HITOMI'S ADVANCE CAMP. FORTUNATELY, THEIR TRUE IDENTITIES ...
THERE'S SOMETHING LIKE IT IN THE REPORT HITOMI FILED ON HER "DOROCI" MISSION.
THAT TANK BLUEBEARD AND FARSIGHT TOOK FROM THE SCRAPYARD...
THE TWO NEW "GUESTS" ARE IN QUARANTINE. HITOMI'S BACK WITH THE COUNCIL.
FX PUFF
.....
.....
FX TOK

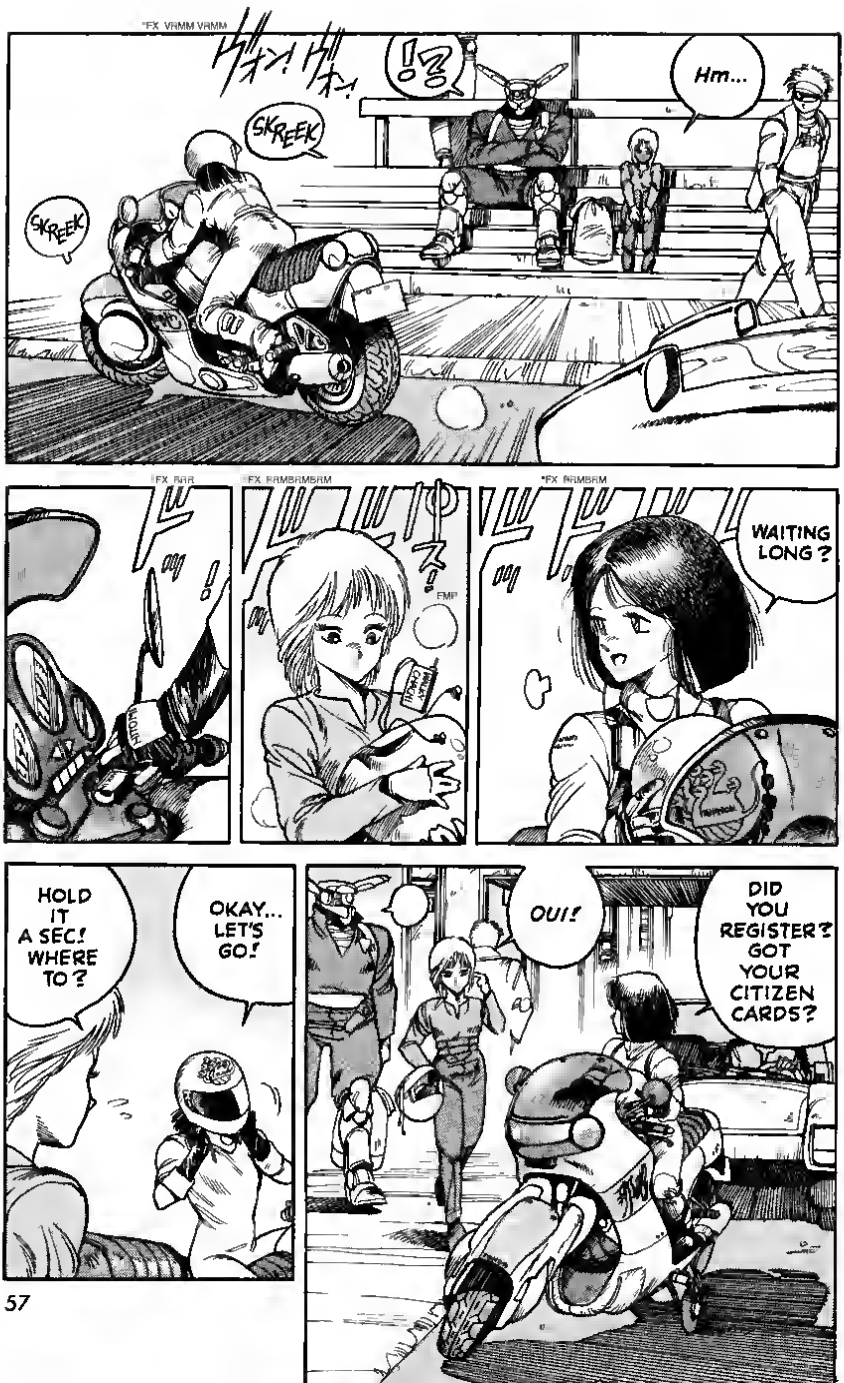

FIND OUT IF THEY REALLY *ARE* "GUESTS"--OR SOMETHING ELSE.
SHE'S APPLIED FOR MORE LANDMATES. I THINK THEY'RE FOR THE GUESTS.
*FX MHMMM





*integrator: a moving walkway

DAMN IT ANYWAY!
NONE OF THEIR DAMN BUSINESS!
IT'S A MEMENTO OF MY FATHER! A KEEPSAKE! NOT A WEAPON!
YOU'RE IMPOS-SIBLE...
THEY SHOULD HAVE JUST TAKEN THE BULLETS AND LET ME KEEP IT IN THE FIRST PLACE!
WE'RE THE ONLY ONES WITHOUT ANYTHING TO DO. Ah, WELL...
KNOWLED SOCIETY


*FX VRMM VRMM
!?
SKREEK
SKREEK
Hm...
*FX RRR
*FX BRMBRMBRM
EMP
*FX BRMBRM
WAITING LONG?
HOLD IT A SEC! WHERE TO?
OKAY... LET'S GO!
OUI!
DID YOU REGISTER? GOT YOUR CITIZEN CARDS?

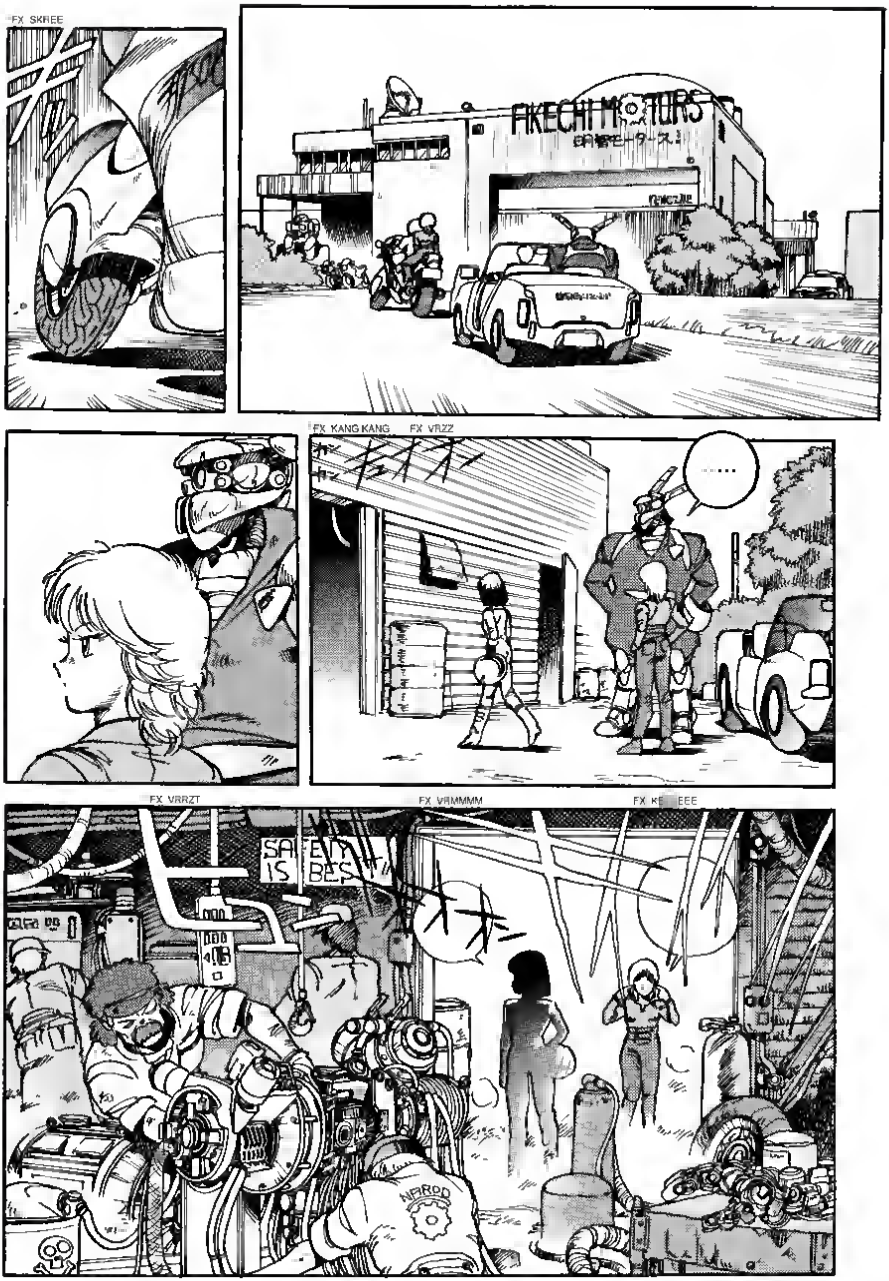
JUST HANG ON! WHAT ABOUT BRIAREOS?
YEAH! RIGHT!
I'LL TAKE YOU THERE.
YOU CAN STAY AT MY PLACE 'TIL YOU FIND WORK.
OINK OINK OINK
DON'T GET IN A SNARL! CAB'S BACK THERE, MY BUY.
FX SQUEE-EE
FX VRRM
FX GNNN
READY?

FX: VRRM
*FX: VRRM
ドオン!
SURE. UNLESS YOU WANT TO BE THE FIRST VAGRANTS IN OLYMPUS HISTORY.
IT'S REALLY OKAY TO STAY AT YOUR PLACE?
*FX: BRMM
FX: VRRRM
Hm?
?

REALLY? SO WHAT KEEPS US FROM GOING OVER?
THE FORKS ARE FREE-FLOATING... THE SLOWER YOU GO, THE SHARPER YOU TURN.
Uh-huh.
THIS BIKE'S *WEIRD.*
EVEN THE FAIRING'S BIOTECH, SELF-HEALING. YOU NEED A SPECIAL WAX, OF COURSE.
COMPUTERIZED DRIVE-BY-WIRE. A SPIN-OFF FROM CYBERJOINT ENGINEERING.
"FUNCTIONAL SIMPLICITY, STRUCTURAL COMPLEXITY: THE BEST LIFE FOR ALL." THAT'S THE MAXIM THE CITY PLANNERS GAVE OUR MANAGERS.
BUT THAT'S 'CAUSE OUR BASIC PHILOSOPHY IS "PEOPLE FIRST."
EVERYTHING IN THE CITY'S CYBERNETIC.
I THOUGHT HYBRID MATERIALS WERE HOT STUFF. BUT *THAT* IS CREEPY!

OPTICAL FIBERS BRING NATURAL SUNLIGHT INSIDE.
EVEN THE ARCOLOGY BLOCKS ARE DESIGNED TO MINIMIZE SHADOWS IN THE WINTER.
IF WE WANTED, WE COULD TURN NIGHT INTO DAY.
OPTO-ELECTRONICS LET YOU TWO GET THROUGH REGIS-TRATION SO QUICKLY.
MOMO
MIDNIGHT
Eh? GO AHEAD.
MIND IF I MAKE A LITTLE DETOUR ?
SCIENCE, THE NEW BLACK MAGIC...
BLACK OR WHITE, IT'S ALL UP TO THE USER...
YEE

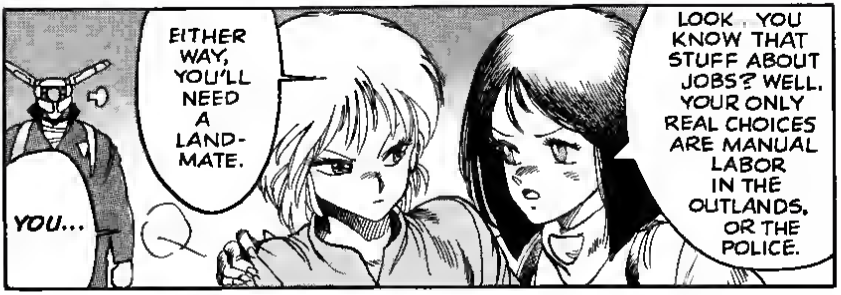
FX VRRR

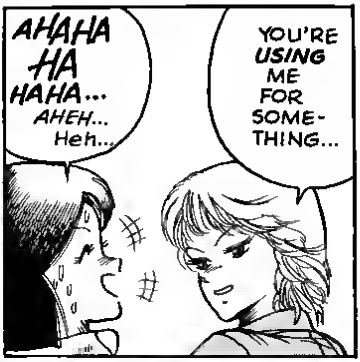

FX SKREE
FIKECHI MOTORS
FX KANG KANG
FX VRZZ
.....
FX VRRZT
FX VRMMMM
FX KE EEE
SAFETY IS BEST
NERRD

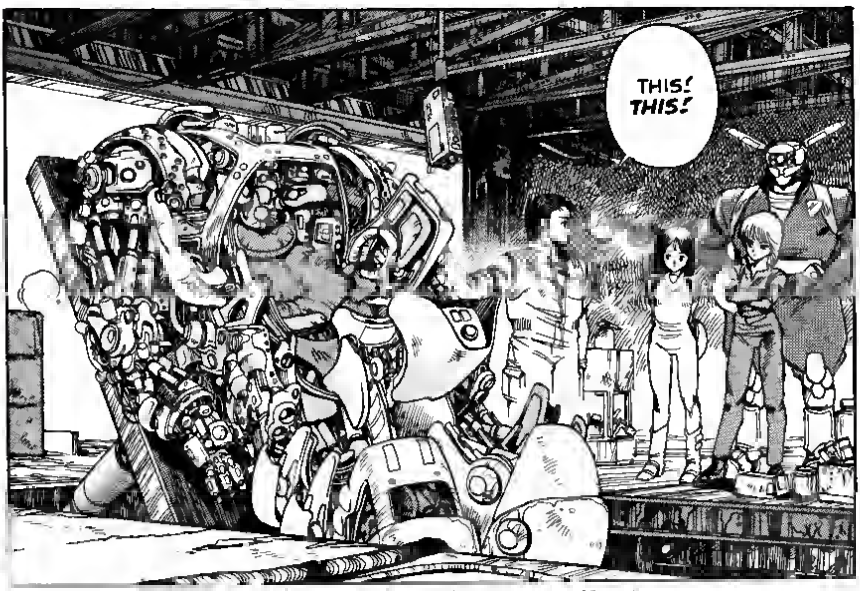
FX FRZZTT
YOO HOO! YOSHI!
YOU!! YOU...!
HI!!
REMEMBER? THOSE LETTERS!
"YOSHI" ...?
WHAT'S WRONG?!
WH... WHAT'S WRONG?
TUNK

FX: VRRM VRRM VRRM
BUT... IT'S MY JOB...
YOU DISAPPEARED FOR THREE DAYS WITHOUT A WORD! I'VE BEEN WORRIED SICK!
FX: SSS
WE'RE SHOPPING FOR A LANDMATE... WANT A SNEAK PREVIEW.
ANYWAY... WHAT'S UP TODAY?
FX: VRRM
FX: RZZKFSHH
...I'M SORRY...
JUST QUIT THAT JOB ALREADY, huh?
FX: BEEP
HANG ON! JUST HANG ON!
WHAT'D HE MEAN, "MORE"?
THAT'S NO PROBLEM FOR THESE TWO. THEY'RE NEW ARRIVALS.
BE ANOTHER SIX MONTHS ON SALES. AND THEY'RE RATED R*...
WHAT, MORE?

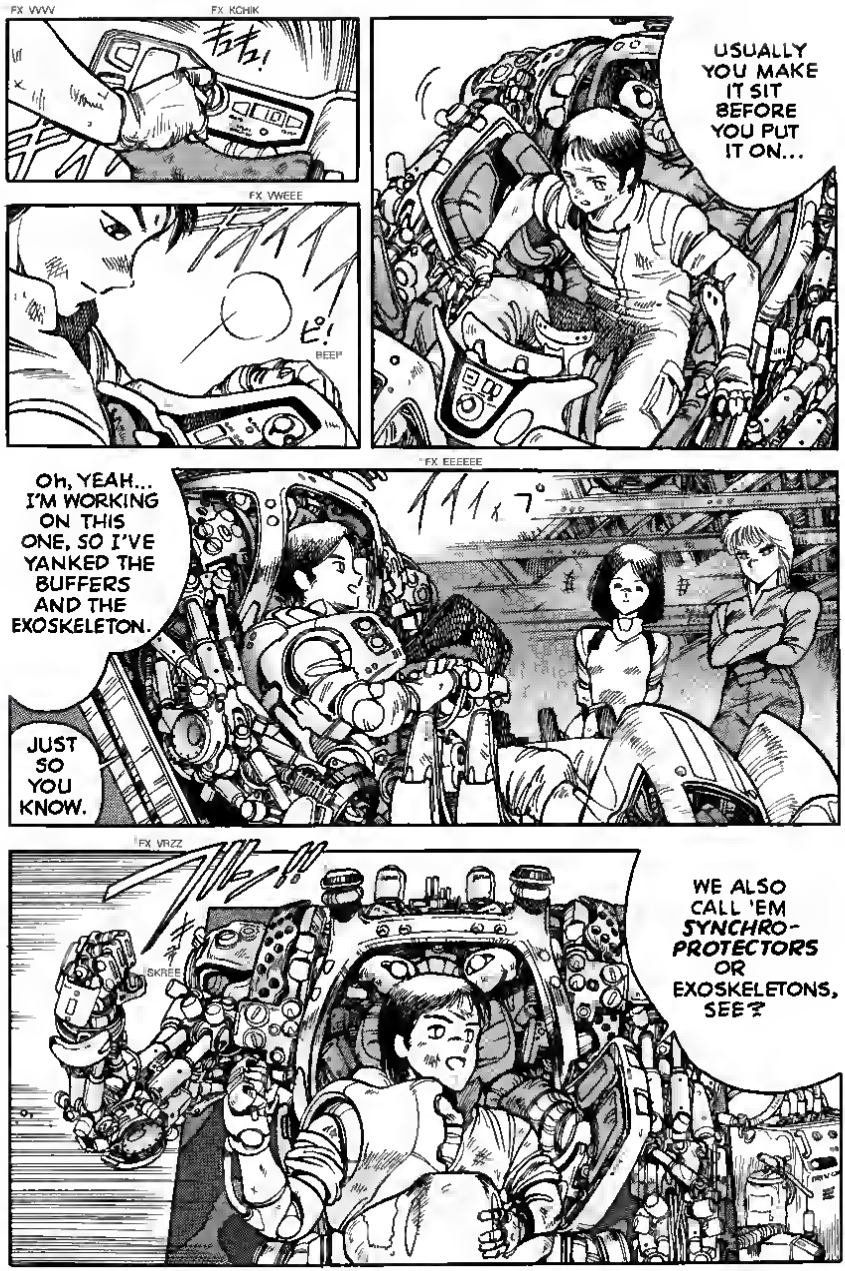
*R designation: Generally used to denote a movie age restriction here; it also includes a license system.


LOOK, YOU KNOW THAT STUFF ABOUT JOBS? WELL, YOUR ONLY REAL CHOICES ARE MANUAL LABOR IN THE OUTLANDS, OR THE POLICE.
EITHER WAY, YOU'LL NEED A LAND-MATE.
YOU...

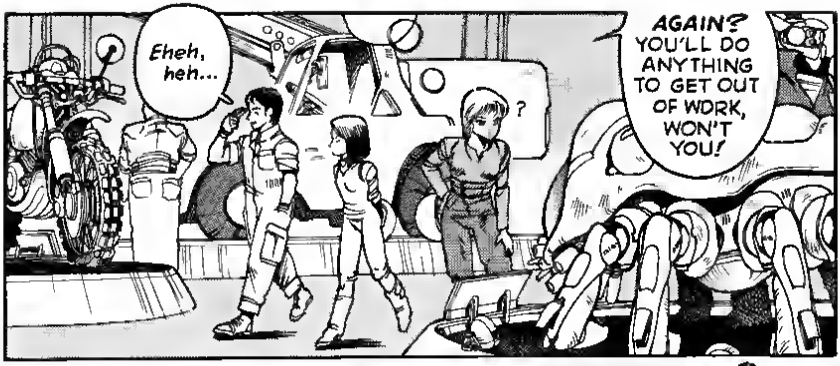


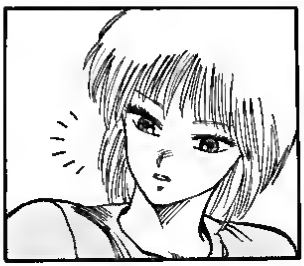


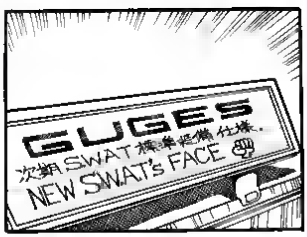
*landmate: the history of this kind of machine is surprisingly deep, and even now GE is working hard at development. A certain suit is famous for fighting a spider.

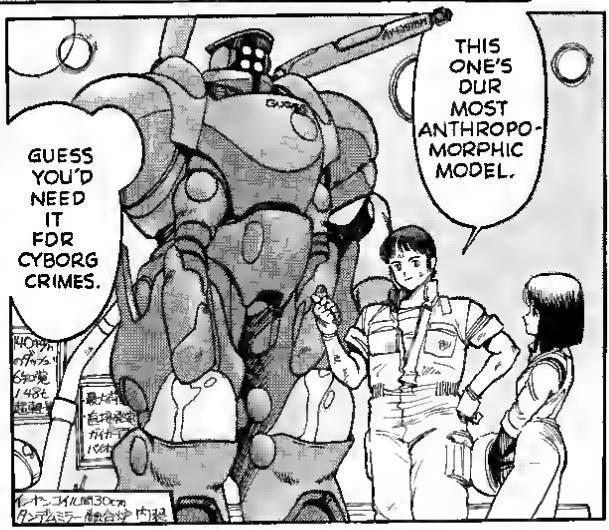

FX VVVV
FX KCHIK
FX VWEEE
BEEP
USUALLY YOU MAKE IT SIT BEFORE YOU PUT IT ON...
FX EEEEEE
Oh, YEAH... I'M WORKING ON THIS ONE, SO I'VE YANKED THE BUFFERS AND THE EXOSKELETON.
JUST SO YOU KNOW.
FX VRZZ
SKREE
WE ALSO CALL 'EM SYNCHRO-PROTECTORS OR EXOSKELETONS, SEE?

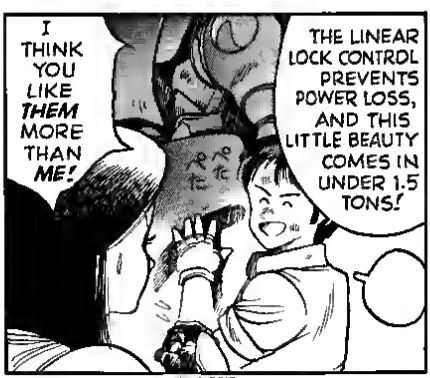
FX HMMM
PROTECTIVE MOVEMENTS ARE PERFECT AROUND TO 120 DEGREES EITHER SIDE ...
BECAUSE OF THE JOINT ARRANGEMENT, THE LEGS DOUBLE THE ANGLE ON FORE-AND-AFT MOVEMENTS.
GOT IT!
SO BASICALLY, YOU WALK AROUND WEARING A MACHINE THAT COPIES EVERY MOVE YOU MAKE.
FX GRNN
FX VEEE VEEE VEEE
WE'RE FLAT BROKE SO DON'T EVEN THINK ABOUT IT!
Hmm MAYBE LIGHT WEIGHT WITH HIGH TENSILE STRENGTH IS THE ANSWER...
WHAT?! I DO NOT!
SINCE THE WHOLE BODY'S ARMORED, EVEN HITOMI COMES OUT BOWLEGGED... HEH...
THOUGH ACTUALLY YOU DON'T NEED ARMOR BACK THERE IF YOU LEARN TO REACT RIGHT.
.....
YOU'VE REALLY GOT TO SEE ONE FITTED OUT...
COME ON... THERE'S ONE ON DISPLAY IN THE SHOWROOM.
FX SKRCH SKRCH

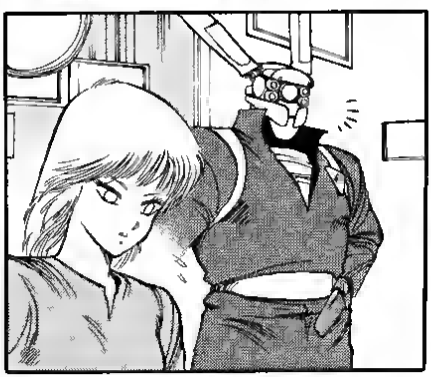

Eheh, heh...
?
AGAIN? YOU'LL DO ANYTHING TO GET OUT OF WORK, WON'T YOU!

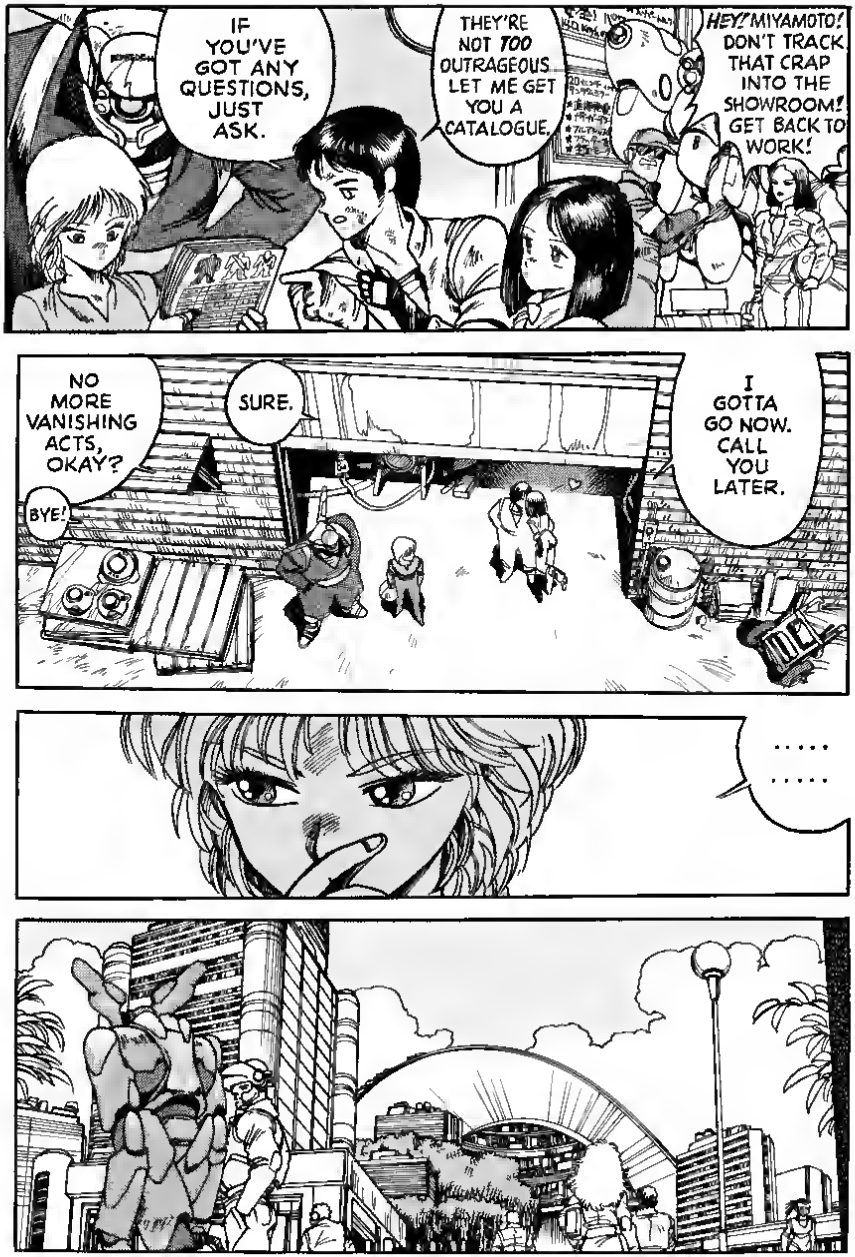


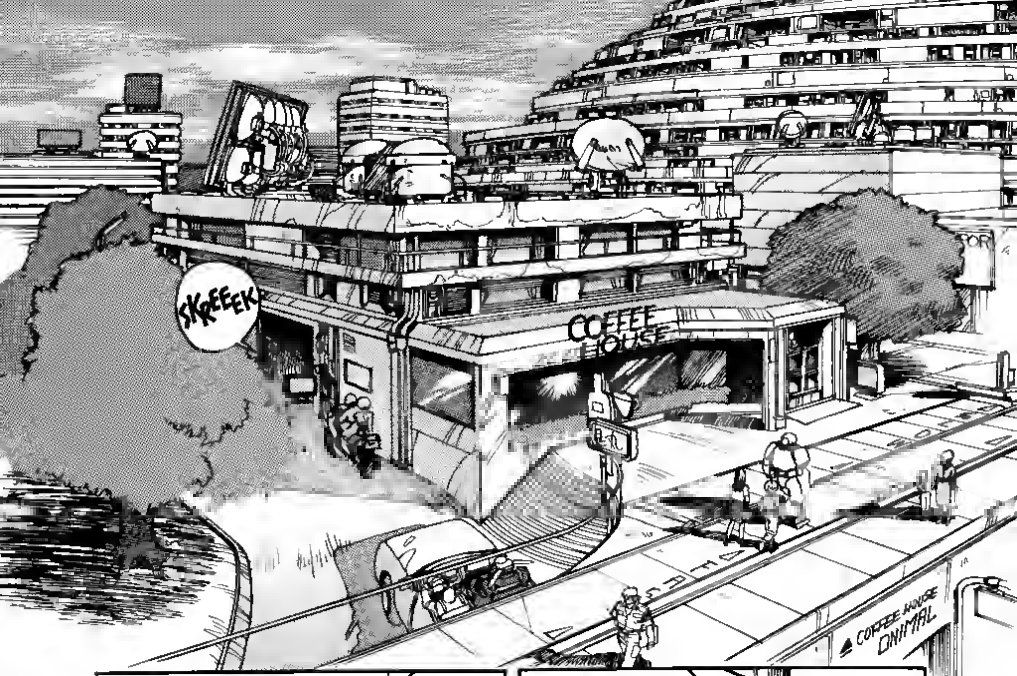

GUGES
次期SWAT機動強襲仕様
NEW SWAT's FACE

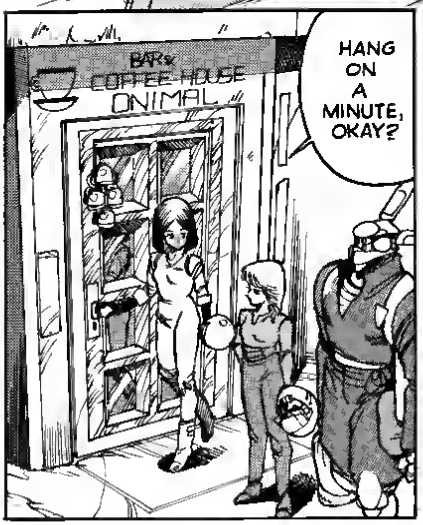

GUESS YOU'D NEED IT FOR CYBORG CRIMES.
THIS ONE'S OUR MOST ANTHROPO-MORPHIC MODEL.

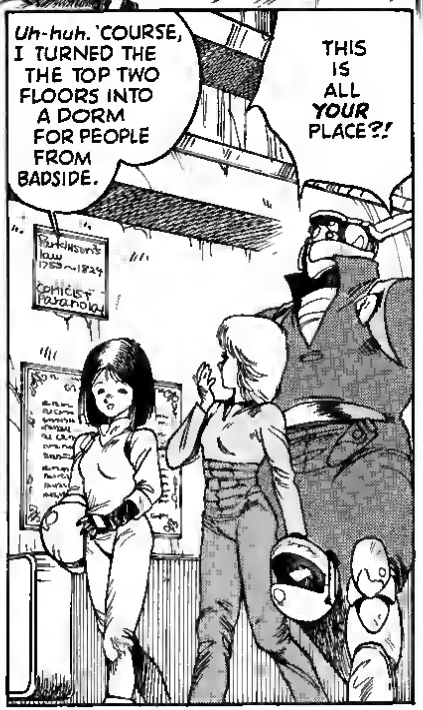

I THINK YOU LIKE THEM MORE THAN ME!
THE LINEAR LOCK CONTROL PREVENTS POWER LOSS, AND THIS LITTLE BEAUTY COMES IN UNDER 1.5 TONS!
FX PAT PAT

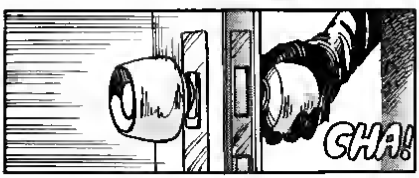



IF YOU'VE GOT ANY QUESTIONS, JUST ASK.
THEY'RE NOT *TOO* OUTRAGEOUS LET ME GET YOU A CATALOGUE.
HEY! MIYAMOTO! DON'T TRACK THAT CRAP INTO THE SHOWROOM! GET BACK TO WORK!
NO MORE VANISHING ACTS, OKAY?
SURE.
I GOTTA GO NOW. CALL YOU LATER.
BYE!
.....
.....

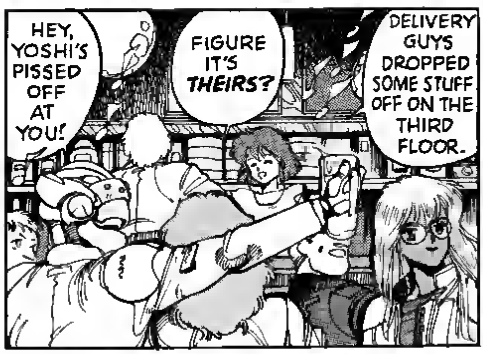

SKREEEK
COFFEE HOUSE
COFFEE HOUSE ONIMAL

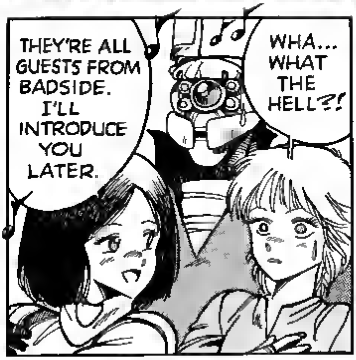

BAR& COFFEE HOUSE ONIMAL
HANG ON A MINUTE, OKAY?


THIS IS ALL YOUR PLACE?!
Uh-huh. 'COURSE, I TURNED THE THE TOP TWO FLOORS INTO A DORM FOR PEOPLE FROM BADSIDE.

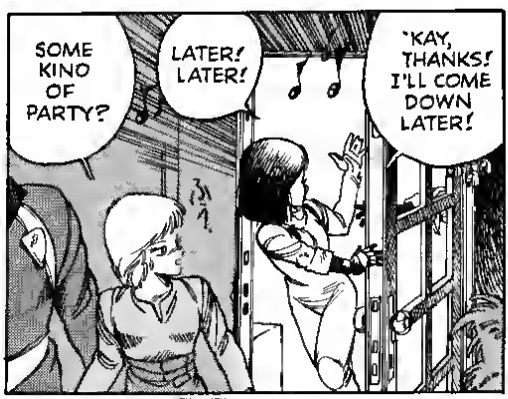

GHA!

WORK ALL DONE?
HEY, MAKE ROOM FOR HER!
WHERE YOU BEEN, STRANGER?
YA-HOO!
ALL RIGHT! THE PRINCESS RETURNS!


HEY, YOSHI'S PISSED OFF AT YOU!
FIGURE IT'S *THEIRS?*
DELIVERY GUYS DROPPED SOME STUFF OFF ON THE THIRD FLOOR.


THEY'RE ALL GUESTS FROM BADSIDE. I'LL INTRODUCE YOU LATER.
WHA... WHAT THE HELL?!

OKAY, LET'S GET YOUR ROOM READY!
AW, IT'S ALWAYS LIKE THIS AFTER WORK.
FX HAHA

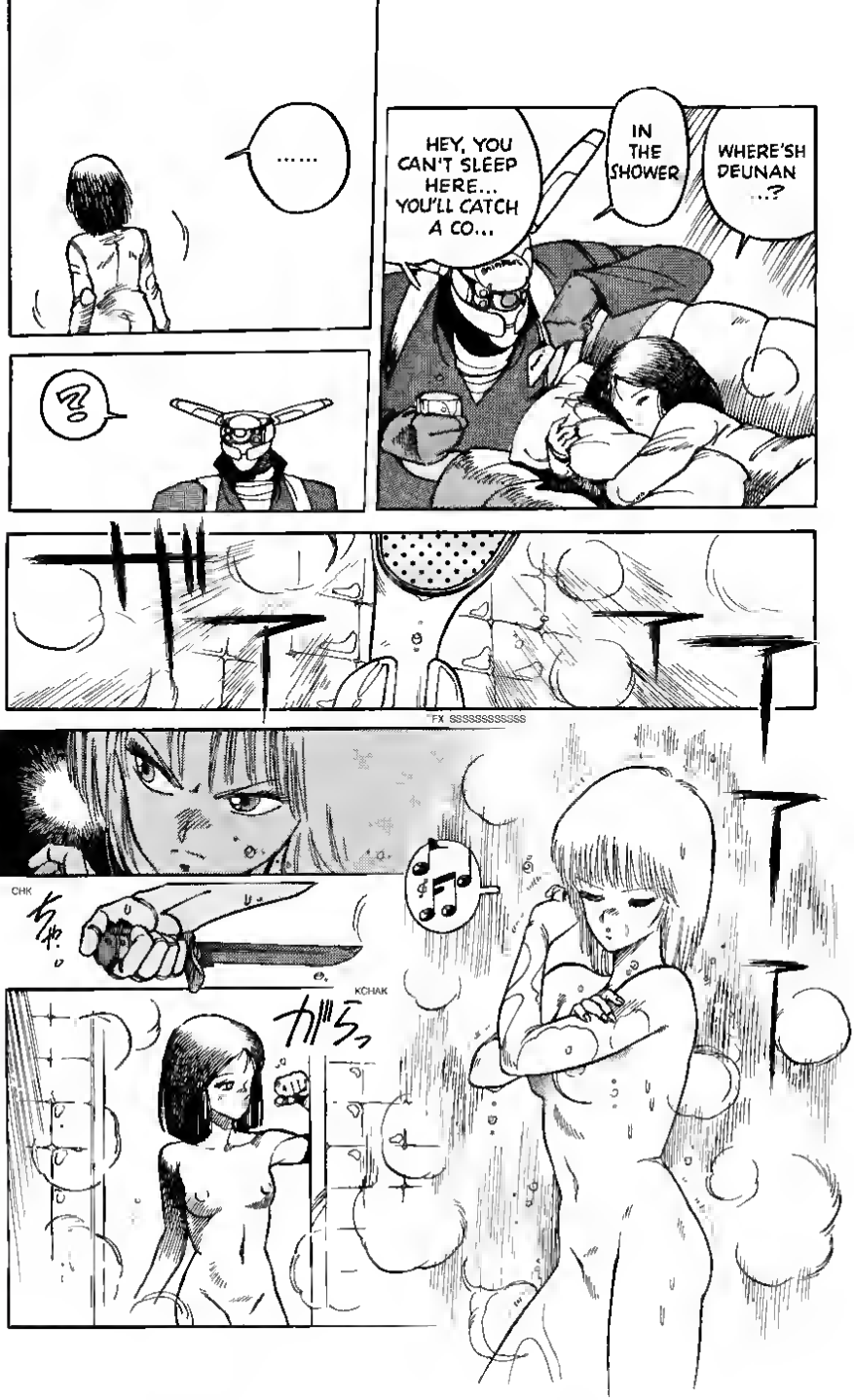

SOME KIND OF PARTY?
LATER! LATER!
'KAY, THANKS! I'LL COME DOWN LATER!
FX WHEW

WHEW...
OKAY, DEUNAN...
OUT WITH IT!
THIS IS REALLY NICE. IT FEELS SO... SO SAFE HERE.
THE CITY LIGHTS ARE BEAUTIFUL...
HOW MANY YEARS HAVE WE BEEN A TEAM? POINTMAN AND FIRST MARKSMAN...
COME ON!
SAY.. YOU INSTALL SOME KINDA NEW SENSOR OR SOMETHING?
YOU WANT ONE OF THOSE LAND-WHATSIT THINGS, RIGHT? WE DON'T HAVE A CENT, BUT I SUPPOSE YOU'RE ALREADY PLANNING ON A LOAN, Hmm?

SO YOU INTEND TO JOIN THE FORCE HERE?
I'LL NEED ONE IF I ENLIST. BESIDES, I *LIKE* TOYS LIKE THAT.
FX KLINK
WELL, YOU GUESSED RIGHT, ANYWAY.
AND ANYWAY, WHAT *OTHER* WORK COULD I DO?
IF WE WANT TO EAT, WITHOUT ENDING UP GRUBBING IN THE DIRT ON SOME FARM, WE BETTER FIND SOMETHING WE CAN DO WELL...
THAT'S *SMUGGLING!*
Heh, heh... IT'S ALL RIGHT. I HID IT IN THE BUSHES DURING QUARANTINE.
SUKK
FX HAHA
SHNGG
LITTLE LATE FOR A CAREER CHANGE ...
WHERE'D *THAT* COME FROM ?!
HEY!

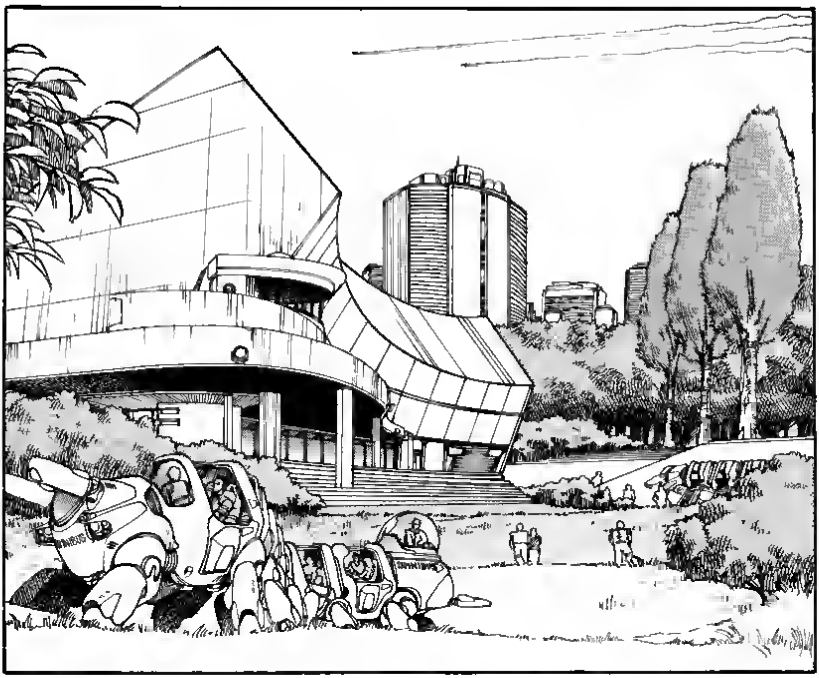
THOSE TOO ?!
OR PERHAPS A NICE CORDON CHANTEFLEUR ...?
TA-DAAAA!♫ LE MONTAIGNE SAUVIGNON BLANC!
BEST THING TO DO WITH THOSE THUGS IS WIPE THEM OUT.
I KNOW, I KNOW... I'M TOO MUCH OF A RATIONALIST. I FEEL THAT MONEY SHOULD BE SPENT TO PROTECT VICTIMS, NOT CRIMINALS.
YOU KNOW, YOU'RE NOT CUT OUT TO BE A REGULAR COP.
Mm.. GOOD.
DON'T GUZZLE IT! YOU HAVE NO IDEA HOW MANY RUINS I CRAWLED THROUGH LOOKING FOR THOSE!
HEY...
WHO'S THIS "WE" YOU KEEP TALKING ABOUT? I THOUGHT IT WAS JUST THE WINE THAT WAS MAKING ME SEE DOUBLE...
...?
COMBAT BOOTS IS MORE LIKE IT...
THAT LANOMATE IS MY TICKET TO A GOOD JOB... MAH RED DANCIN' SHOES.
NOW, JUST A SEC...
COME ON... YOU KNOW IT'S THE WORK WE WERE MADE FOR.

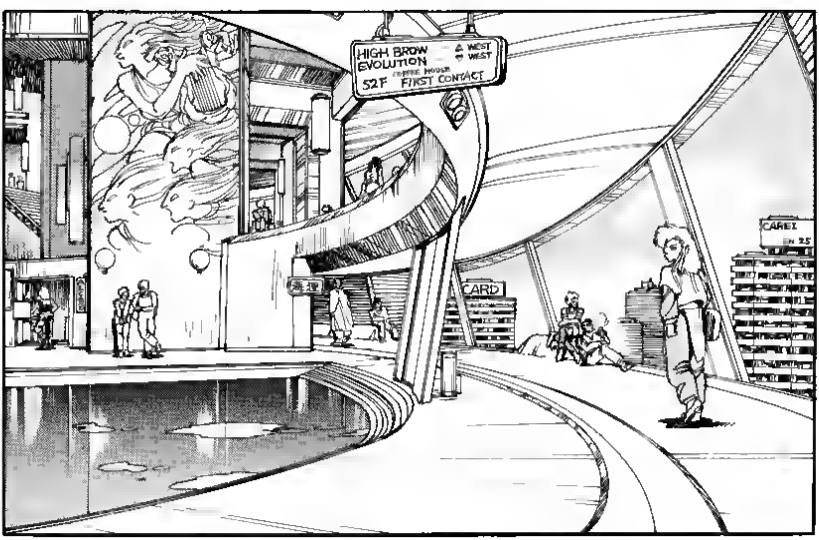
IT'S JUST NOT FAIR. I SPENT ALL THAT TIME WHILE WE WERE CLEANING UP THINKING OF HOW I COULD PERSUADE YOU, AND THEN...
*BUHAHAHAHA
*TWITCH
*FFF
.....
SO... Hmm...
Mmff! THAT WAS TOO CLOSE,. BETTER COME UP WITH A BETTER ANSWER...
I SHALL TAKE A SHOWER, AND PLOT ANEW!
NO!
Eh?
*HIC
I'M HO;HIC:OME WADDA, WA, WAD'R PLEASH

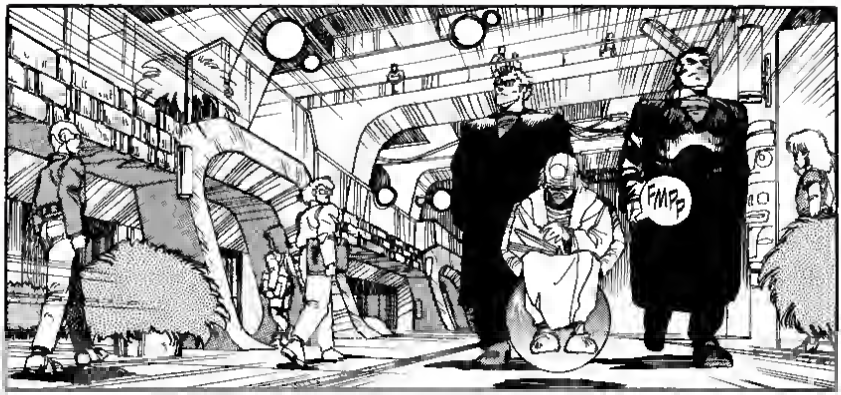

.....
HEY, YOU CAN'T SLEEP HERE... YOU'LL CATCH A CO...
IN THE SHOWER
WHERE'SH DEUNAN ...?
FX SSSSSSSSSSS
CHK
KCHAK

FX: SSSS
S'OKAY.. THOUGHT I'D SCRUB Y'R BACK..
Oh..IT'S YOU... I'M NOT DONE YET, YOU KNOW!
WE DON'T DO HARAKIRI ANY-MORE... REALLY...
GOLLY... :hic:
!
SUPP
:Hic:
THANKS, BUT NO THANKS! TEN MINUTES!
FMPP
WHA-!?!
GULP
I.. YOU KNOW, I...
WH.. WHY ARE YOU SO COLD?!

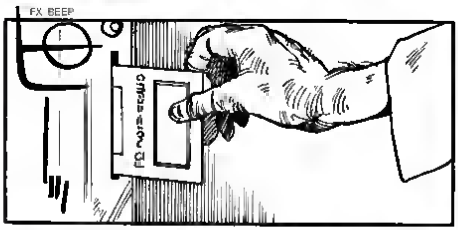
FX FUMP
HITOMI?!
TONK TONK
YOU..
YOU IDIOT!!
I'M NOT
INTO THAT!
LEGGO!
LET GO,
I SAID!
ZZZ
ZZNZ
FX WHRLOOSH
ZGZNZZ...
THAT
LITTLE...!!
STONE
BLOODY
DRUNK!
WHAT'S
THE
?UHK?
FX GONGG




HIGH BROW
EVOLUTION
52F FIRST CONTACT
CARD
CARET

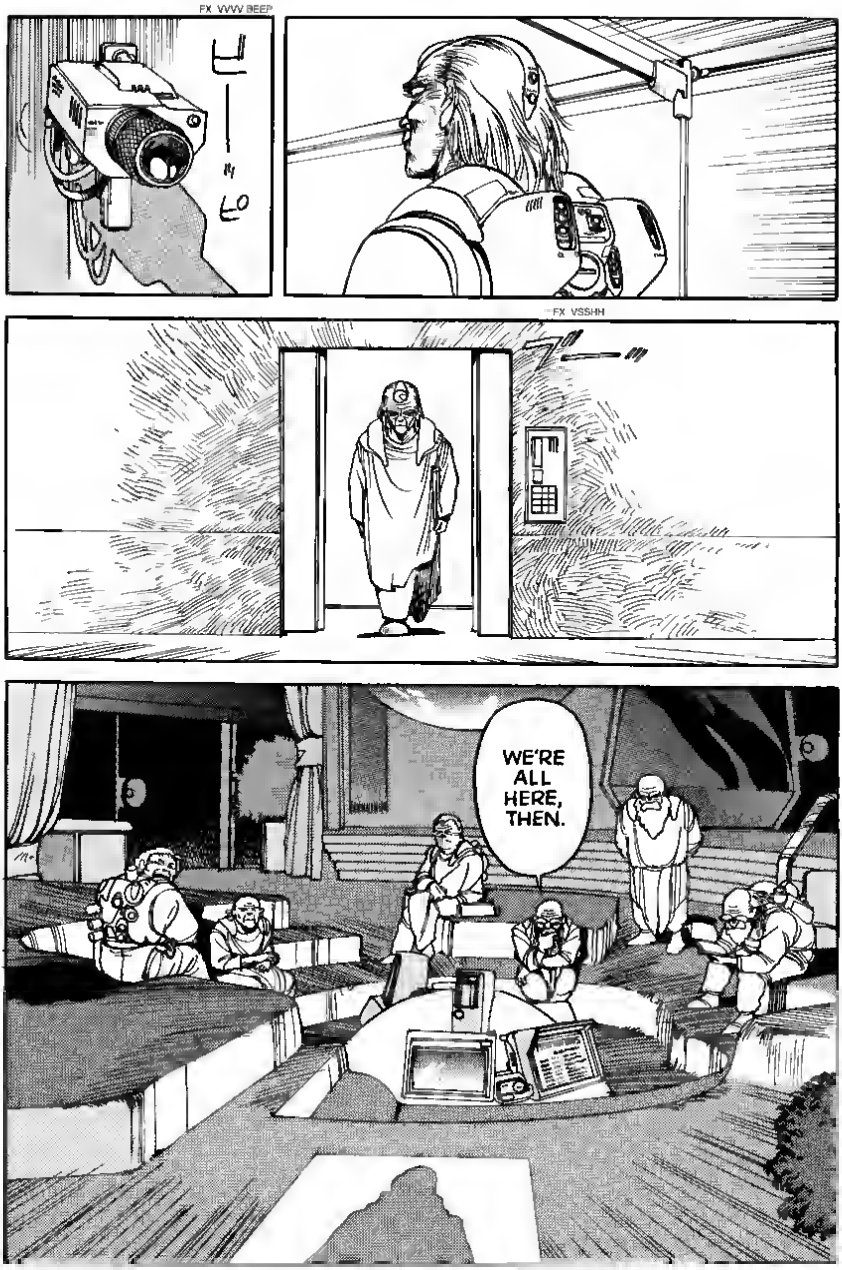

FMP

OOO


FX. BEEP

GOOD LUCK, SIR.

FX. VSSHH


FX VVVV BEEP
HI
LO
FX VSSHH
WE'RE ALL HERE, THEN.

FX BEEP
DATA FIRST. TALK LATER.
WELL, GENTLEMEN. FOLLOW ME...
FX BEEP
KCHAK
FX WIN

FX SAM
DIRECTOR!
IT'S YOU WHO NEEDS TO GET SERIOUS, DIRECTOR!
DO I, NOW?
THERE'S NO NEED TO GET SO EMOTIONAL, ATHENA...
WE'RE STILL NOT SECURE HERE. IT'S ESSENTIAL THAT WE BUILD UP OUR DEFENSES, INCLUDING THOSE OF THE EXECUTIVE ORGAN.*
THEN AT LEAST ACKNOWLEDGE THE DANGER OF SELLING LANDMATES ON THE OPEN MARKET!
A STUDY ON "THE IMPACT OF THE PRESENT ENVIRONMENT ON HOMO SAPIENS"...? SOUNDS CONSTRUCTIVE. I WELCOME IT.
YOUR REPORT ON THE COUNCIL CONTAINED NOTHING SUSPICIOUS.

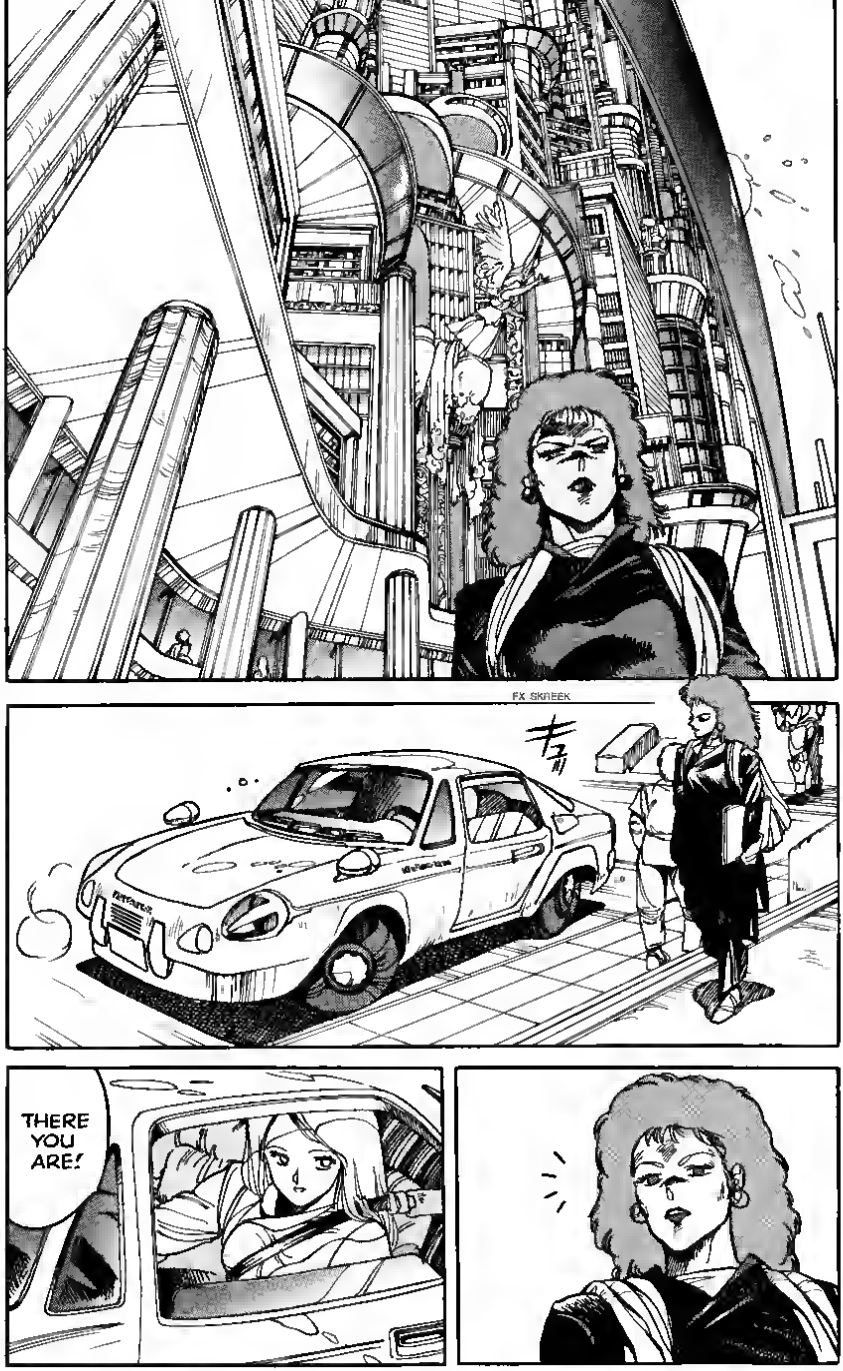
*executive organ: here it applies to a police organization

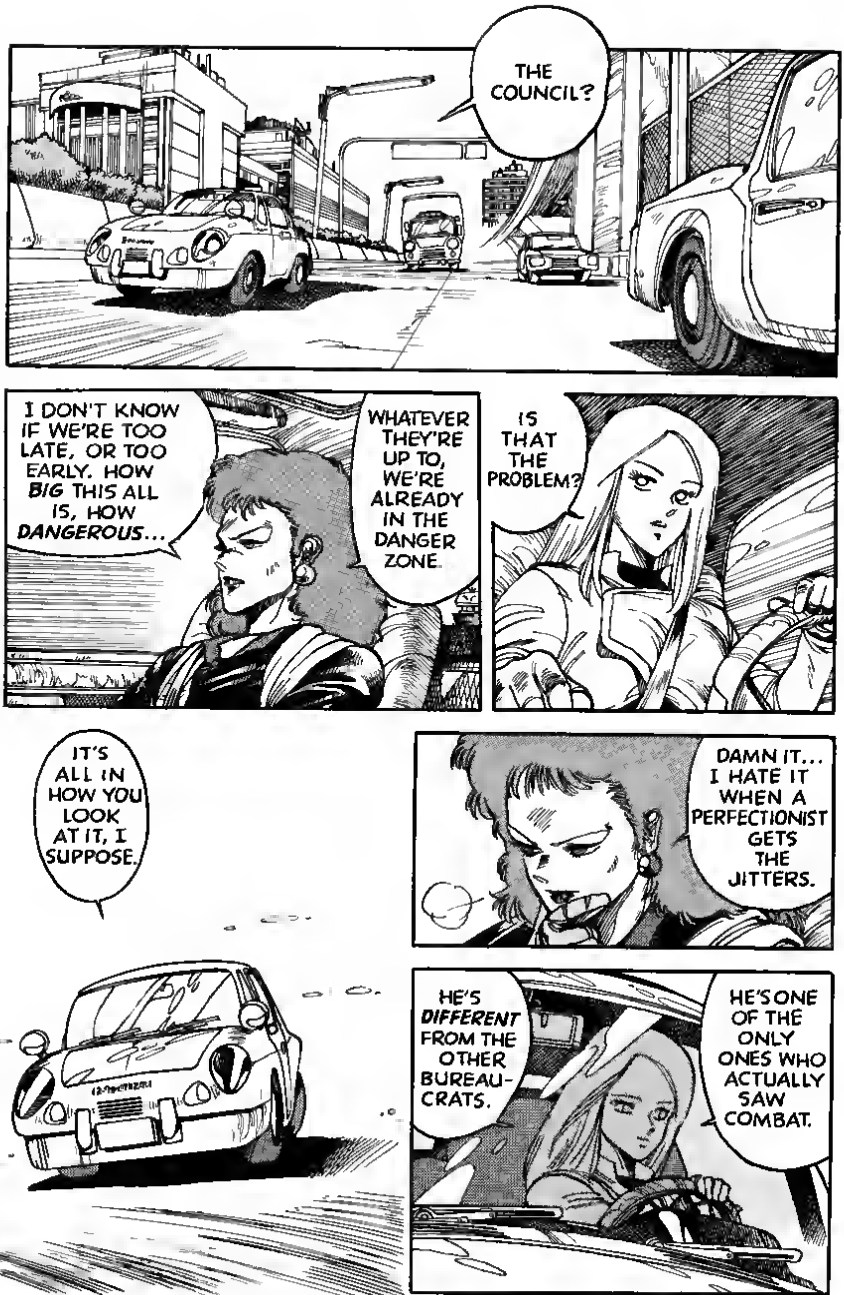
YOU ONLY SAY THAT BECAUSE YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT MOBILE WEAPONS COULD DO IN A CITY LIKE THIS!
ATHENA!
I WOULD-- IF YOU'D SET UP A PROPER MECHANISM FOR MONITORING THE ACTIVITIES OF THE COUNCIL!
WELL, I'M MORE CONCERNED THAT YOU'RE NOT PUTTING GREATER EFFORT INTO RECON-STRUCTION.
YOU SEEM AWFULLY CONCERNED ABOUT THOSE "GUINEA PIGS" HITOMI'S BRINGING IN.
FX: BAM
I'VE HAD ENOUGH, ATHENA!
WITH YOU IN SUCH A STATE, I'M FRANKLY MORE CONCERNED ABOUT AEGIS. YOU HAVE A MOUNTAIN OF WORK TO DO.
CONSULTING, DEPLOYMENT, LAW ENFORCEMENT! INTERNATIONAL NEGOTIATIONS AND MEDIATIONS! ESTABLISHING BORDERS AND TERRITORIAL WATERS, CLEANING UP WAR DAMAGE--IT GOES ON AND ON...

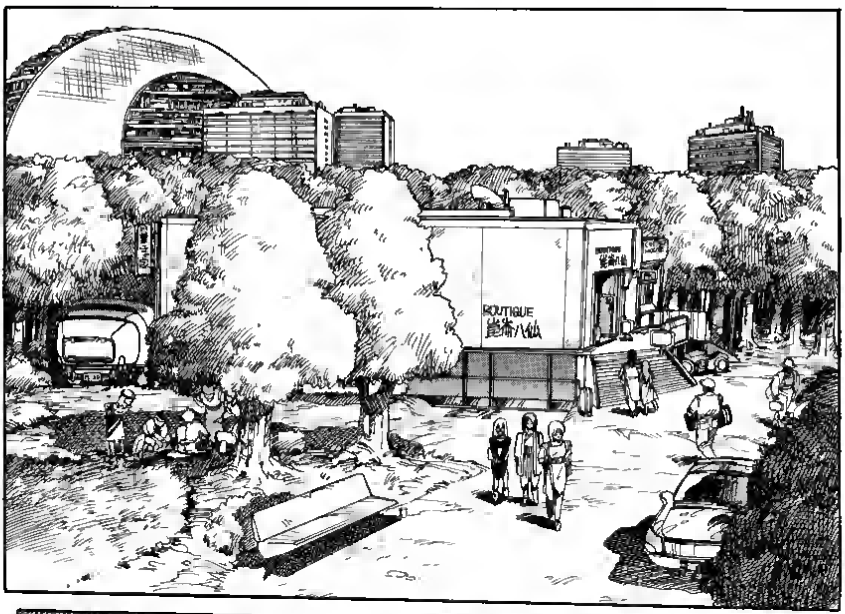
VERY FAST.
YES, A MUCH QUICKER REACTION THAN OUR PREDIC-TIONS.
HIGHLY RELIABLE, I'M SORRY TO SAY.
THE DATA COMES FROM EMBASSY ATTACHES.
IT'S NOT JUST IN OLYMPUS. THE WHOLE HUMAN RACE IS EXTREMELY UNSTABLE. THEY'RE SIMPLY NOT COPING.
EVEN NOW?
WE WERE ON THE BRINK OF FINAL WAR. WE HAD NO CHOICE. EVEN NOW...
DID WE PUSH THE PLAN FORWARD TOO FAST...?

I'VE TOLD HITOMI TO HURRY, BUT SHE HAS TO BE CAREFUL. ATHENA...
TWO MORE AGENTS AND WE'LL BE READY.
BEFORE THAT HAPPENS, WE HAVE TO ELIMINATE THE BARRIERS BETWEEN US AND THE HOMO SAPIENS.
Ah, EXCUSE ME.
IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE THE REST OF THE WORLD IS MODELLED ON OLYMPUS.
I WANT DATA SOLID ENOUGH TO CONVINCE NINETY PERCENT OF THE COUNCIL.
THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEAN. WE NEED A CITY-WIDE MOVEMENT.
THAT WAS A NATURAL EVOLUTION. FRANKLY, WE'RE NOTHING BUT TOOLS. TOOLS FOR THE HUMANS
THERE'S NO RECORD OF HOMO SAPIENS WORRYING ABOUT THE MONKEYS
OF COURSE! THAT HASN'T CHANGED
OUR ORIGINAL GOAL WAS TO PRESERVE THE STATUS QUO. EVERYTHING WE'VE DONE WAS TO THAT END.

HOPEFULLY, NEW TENSION WILL GENERATE BETTER CONDITIONS.
BUT IN THE PRESENT ENVIRONMENT, THE HUMAN RACE WILL LOSE ITS BIOLOGICAL VITALITY IN THREE GENERATIONS. IT'S *INEVITABLE*.
I'M NOT SAYING WE SHOULD ABANDON EVERYTHING HUMAN, OR EVEN THAT WE'RE THE BEST OPTION.
IF THE HUMAN INTELLECT IS A PRODUCT OF EVOLUTION, THEN *WE* SHOULD QUALIFY AS WELL.
AND THE OLD COLD WAR POWER GAMES ...?
WE CAN'T JUST *ABANDON* THE REFUGEES, DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, THE POOR... THAT'S SEVENTY-FIVE PERCENT OF THE POPULATION.
IT'S NOT AS SIMPLE AS THAT... A HARSHER ENVIRONMENT ISN'T NECESSARILY BETTER. SOCIETY DETERIORATES, MORALS COLLAPSE...
WE SHOULD'VE ALREADY REACHED AN AGREEMENT ON THAT... THERE'S NO MORE TIME.
THE CONFERENCE ROOM, GENTLEMEN.
WELL, LET'S DISCUSS HOW TO SCREEN THE NEXT ROUND OF DATA.
Ahem!

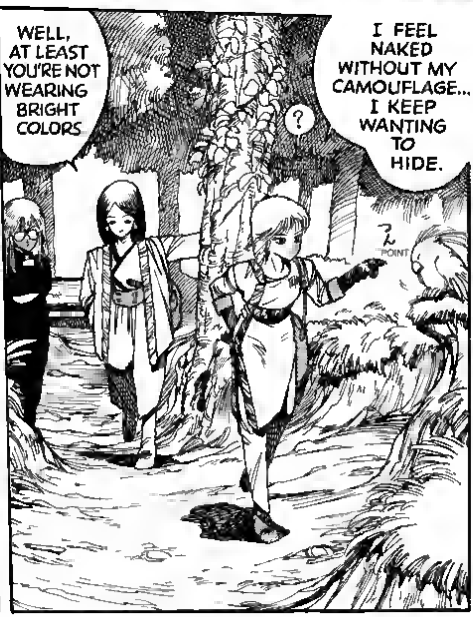

FX: SKREEK
THERE YOU ARE!

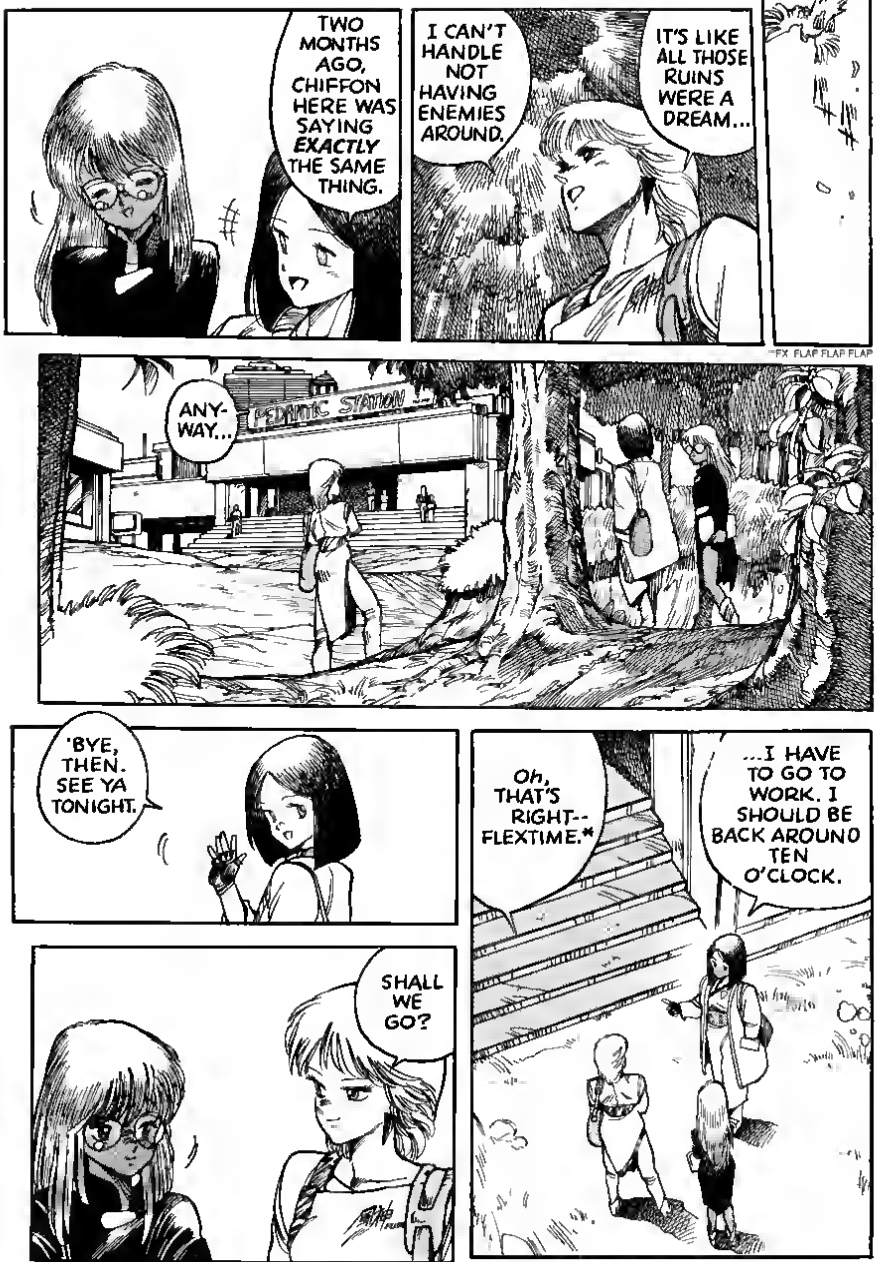

THE COUNCIL?
I DON'T KNOW IF WE'RE TOO LATE, OR TOO EARLY. HOW *BIG* THIS ALL IS, HOW *DANGEROUS*...
WHATEVER THEY'RE UP TO, WE'RE ALREADY IN THE DANGER ZONE.
IS THAT THE PROBLEM?
IT'S ALL IN HOW YOU LOOK AT IT, I SUPPOSE.
DAMN IT... I HATE IT WHEN A PERFECTIONIST GETS THE JITTERS.
HE'S *DIFFERENT* FROM THE OTHER BUREAU-CRATS.
HE'S ONE OF THE ONLY ONES WHO ACTUALLY SAW COMBAT.


BOUTIQUE

Oh, YOU'LL GET USED TO IT.
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE EVER GONE INTO THE BUSH WITHOUT MY WEAPONS DRAWN. IT'S *WEIRD* NOT HAVING A GUN ON MY HIP.
FX: HEE HEE
on shirt: fushin (wird god)

AWK! AWK!
*FX: FLAP FLAP FLAP


WELL, AT LEAST YOU'RE NOT WEARING BRIGHT COLORS.
I FEEL NAKED WITHOUT MY CAMOUFLAGE... I KEEP WANTING TO HIDE.
?
POINT

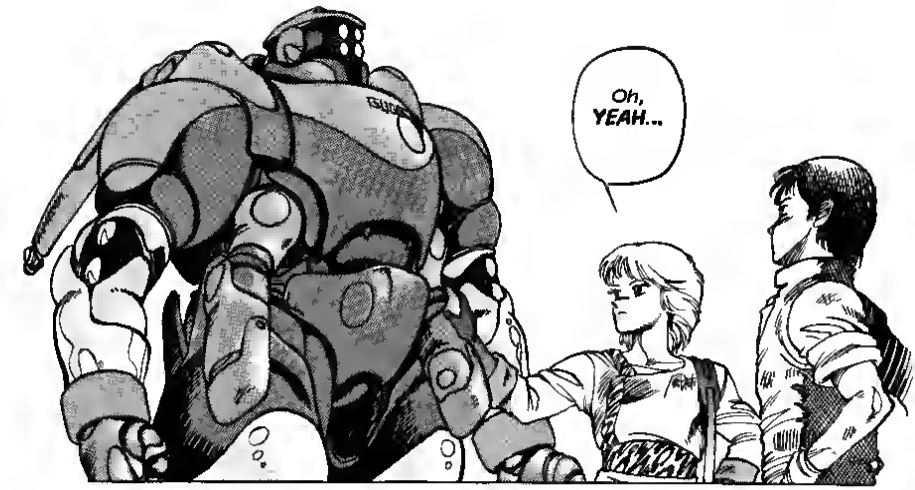

TWO MONTHS AGO, CHIFFON HERE WAS SAYING EXACTLY THE SAME THING.
I CAN'T HANDLE NOT HAVING ENEMIES AROUND.
IT'S LIKE ALL THOSE RUINS WERE A DREAM...
—FX: FLAP FLAP FLAP
ANY-WAY...
'BYE, THEN. SEE YA TONIGHT.
Oh, THAT'S RIGHT-- FLEXTIME.*
...I HAVE TO GO TO WORK. I SHOULD BE BACK AROUND TEN O'CLOCK.
SHALL WE GO?

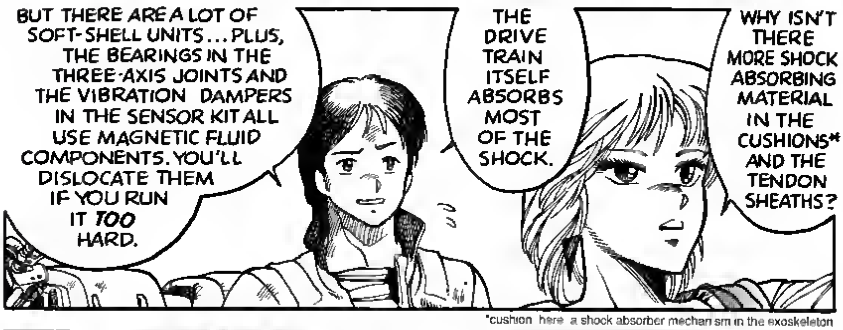
*flextime: flexible work hours

AFIN STATION
AFIN & UNU-CRIDTON.
FX: VRRM VRRM VWEE
YOSHI! YOU GOT A CUSTOMER HERE, SAYS SHE WANTS TO BUY A GUGES.
WHAT?!
SAFETY FIRST!
YOU DON'T BELIEVE ME?
LOOKIT, ROMEO... I'M GLAD YOU'RE SO HOT WITH THE CHICKS, BUT THEY GOTTA WEAR HELMETS IN THE SHOP, OKAY?
Oh, DAMN. . I NEVER SHOULD'VE GIVEN HER THAT CATALOGUE...
AKECHI

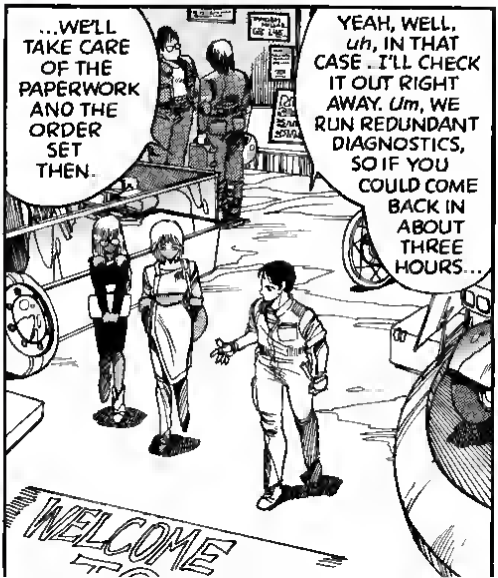
YOU SHOULD CHOOSE A MACHINE FOR WHAT YOU NEED IT TO DO, NOT FOR THE SPECS...
...AND THE GUGES IS THE ONLY MODEL WITH A DRIVE TRAIN THAT COMES WITH A TORQUE DAMPER MECHANISM AND POWER BRAKING.
MY PARTNER SAYS MODELS WITH HEAVY LOADING ON THE OUTER JOINTS LOOK GOOD, BUT ARE HARD TO BRING AROUND IN A PINCH. HE SAYS THAT COULD BE BAD NEWS...
FX: VWEE
I REALLY GAVE IT A LOT OF THOUGHT ...
...A GUGES? YOU'RE SURE?
EVEN THE MECHS AT SWAT HAVE TROUBLE KEEPING A GUGES RUNNING, AND THEY'RE ONLY HALF HUMAN THEMSELVES.
THAT'S BECAUSE IT'S A MONSTER.
THE GUGES HAS THE BEST SENSORING AND TORQUE BALANCE ...
FX: VEEEN
FX: KANG CHANG KANG
"THE ADVANTAGES OF A HUMANOID MODEL LIE IN COMBAT AND MANEUVERABILITY." THAT'S WHAT IT SAYS IN YOUR CATALOGUE.
COME ON... I CAN'T REALLY RECOMMEND HAND-TO-HAND COMBAT TO A YOUNG LADY... Heh...
FX: VRRRMMM
IT'S GOT A SOLID BUILD. NONE OF THE OTHERS LOOK ANY GOOD FOR HAND-TO-HAND COMBAT.
WELL, I DON'T LIKE WASTING TIME WITH FEEDBACK.*

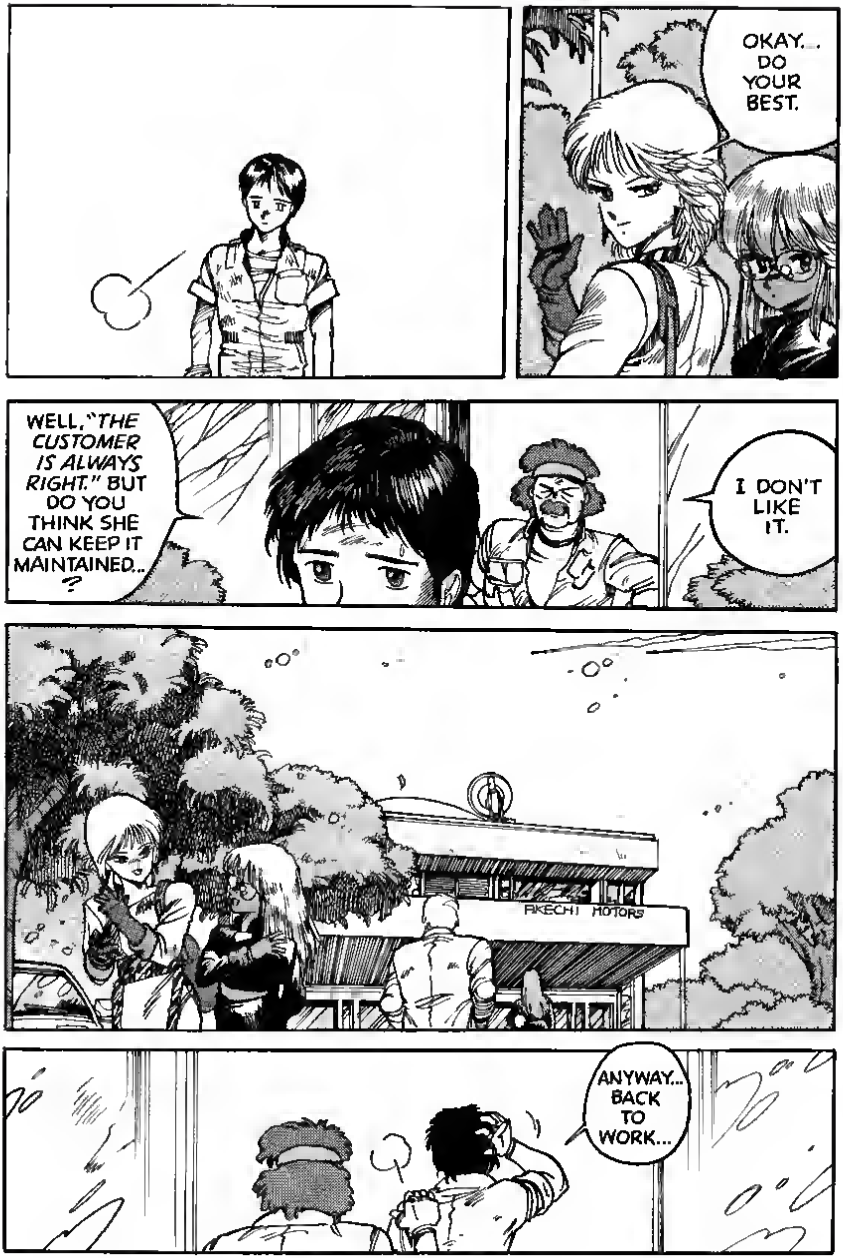
*feedback: usually used in electric terminology when part of the output of a circuit is put back into the input, increasing the output (positive feedback) or reducing it (negative feedback)

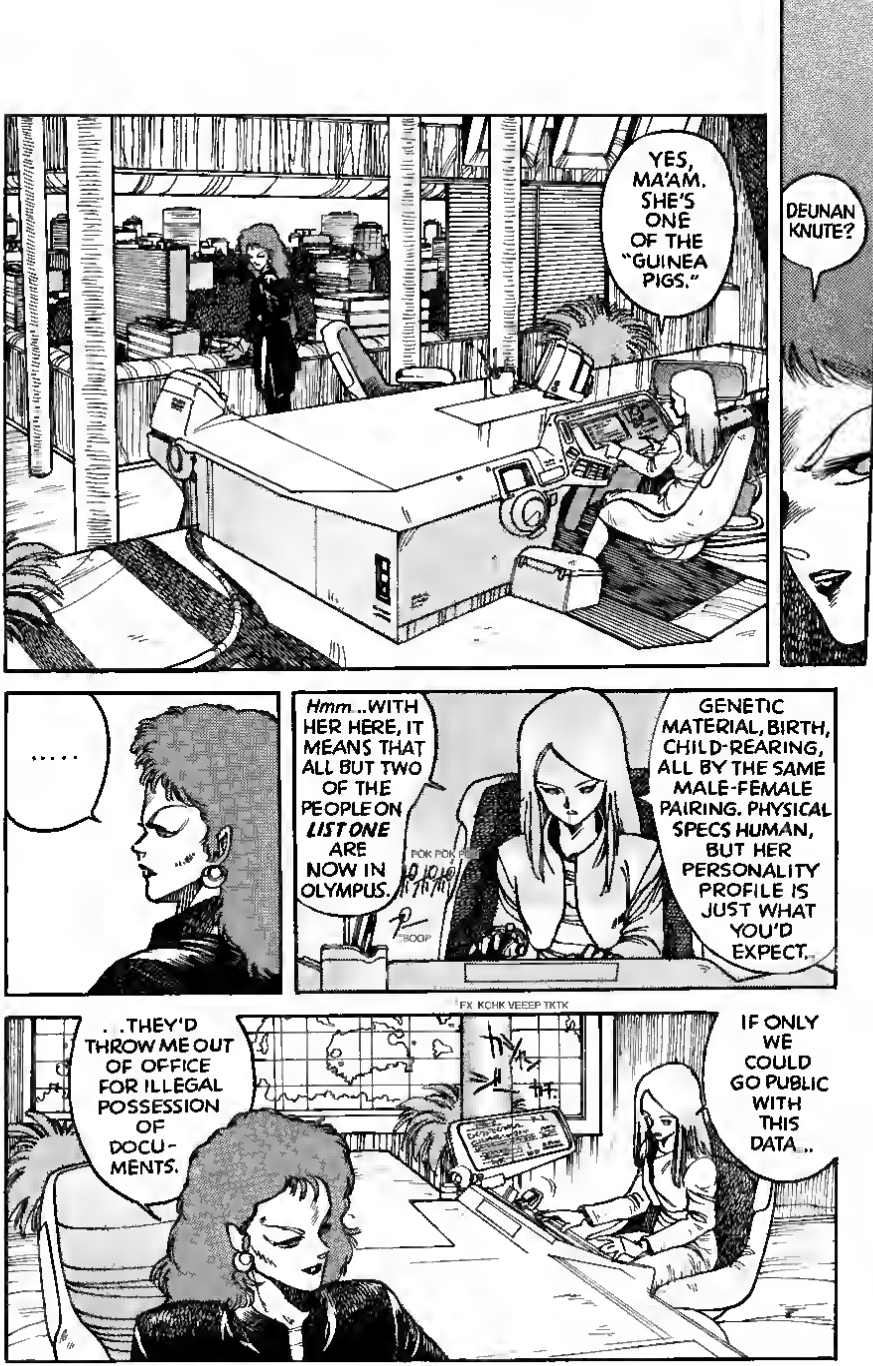



BUT THERE ARE A LOT OF SOFT-SHELL UNITS... PLUS, THE BEARINGS IN THE THREE-AXIS JOINTS AND THE VIBRATION DAMPERS IN THE SENSOR KIT ALL USE MAGNETIC FLUID COMPONENTS. YOU'LL DISLOCATE THEM IF YOU RUN IT TOO HARD.
THE DRIVE TRAIN ITSELF ABSORBS MOST OF THE SHOCK.
WHY ISN'T THERE MORE SHOCK ABSORBING MATERIAL IN THE CUSHIONS* AND THE TENDON SHEATHS?

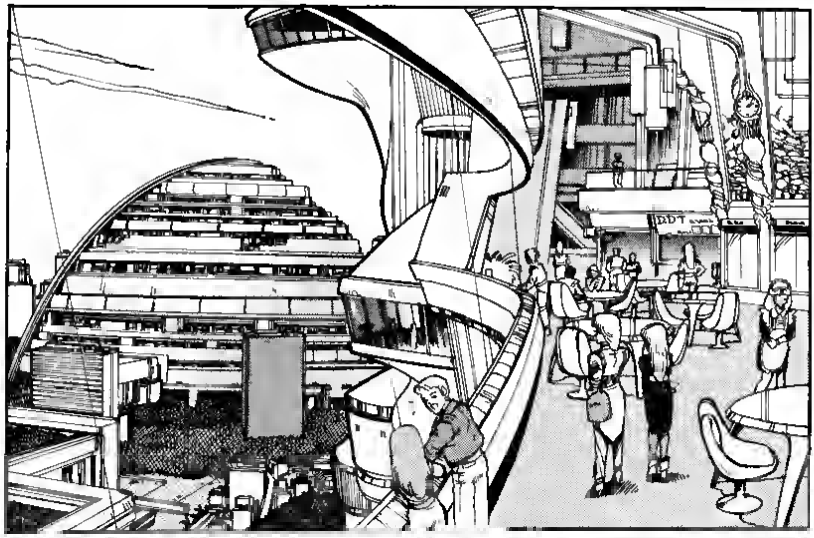
*cushion: here, a shock absorber mechanism in the exoskeleton

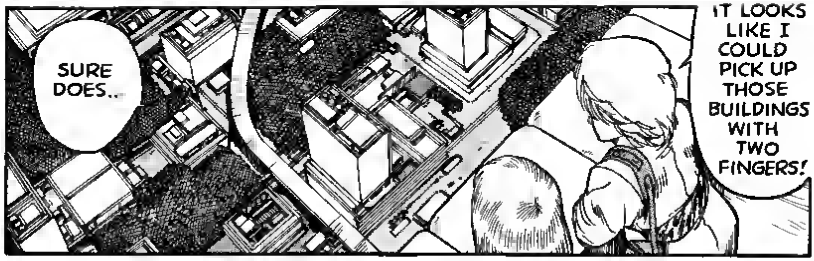

...WE'LL TAKE CARE OF THE PAPERWORK AND THE ORDER SET THEN.
YEAH, WELL, uh, IN THAT CASE. I'LL CHECK IT OUT RIGHT AWAY. Um, WE RUN REDUNDANT DIAGNOSTICS, SO IF YOU COULD COME BACK IN ABOUT THREE HOURS...
WELCOME

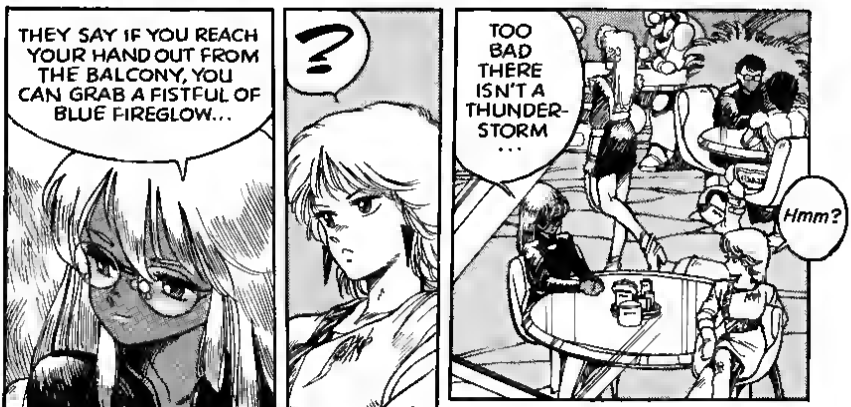

OKAY... DO YOUR BEST.
WELL, "THE CUSTOMER IS ALWAYS RIGHT." BUT DO YOU THINK SHE CAN KEEP IT MAINTAINED...?
I DON'T LIKE IT.
AKECHI MOTORS
ANYWAY... BACK TO WORK...


YES, MA'AM. SHE'S ONE OF THE "GUINEA PIGS."
DEUNAN KNUTE?
.....
Hmm...WITH HER HERE, IT MEANS THAT ALL BUT TWO OF THE PEOPLE ON LIST ONE ARE NOW IN OLYMPUS.
POK POK
BOOP
GENETIC MATERIAL, BIRTH, CHILD-REARING, ALL BY THE SAME MALE-FEMALE PAIRING. PHYSICAL SPECS HUMAN, BUT HER PERSONALITY PROFILE IS JUST WHAT YOU'D EXPECT.
FX KCHK VEEEP TKTK
. . .THEY'D THROW ME OUT OF OFFICE FOR ILLEGAL POSSESSION OF DOCU-MENTS.
IF ONLY WE COULD GO PUBLIC WITH THIS DATA...

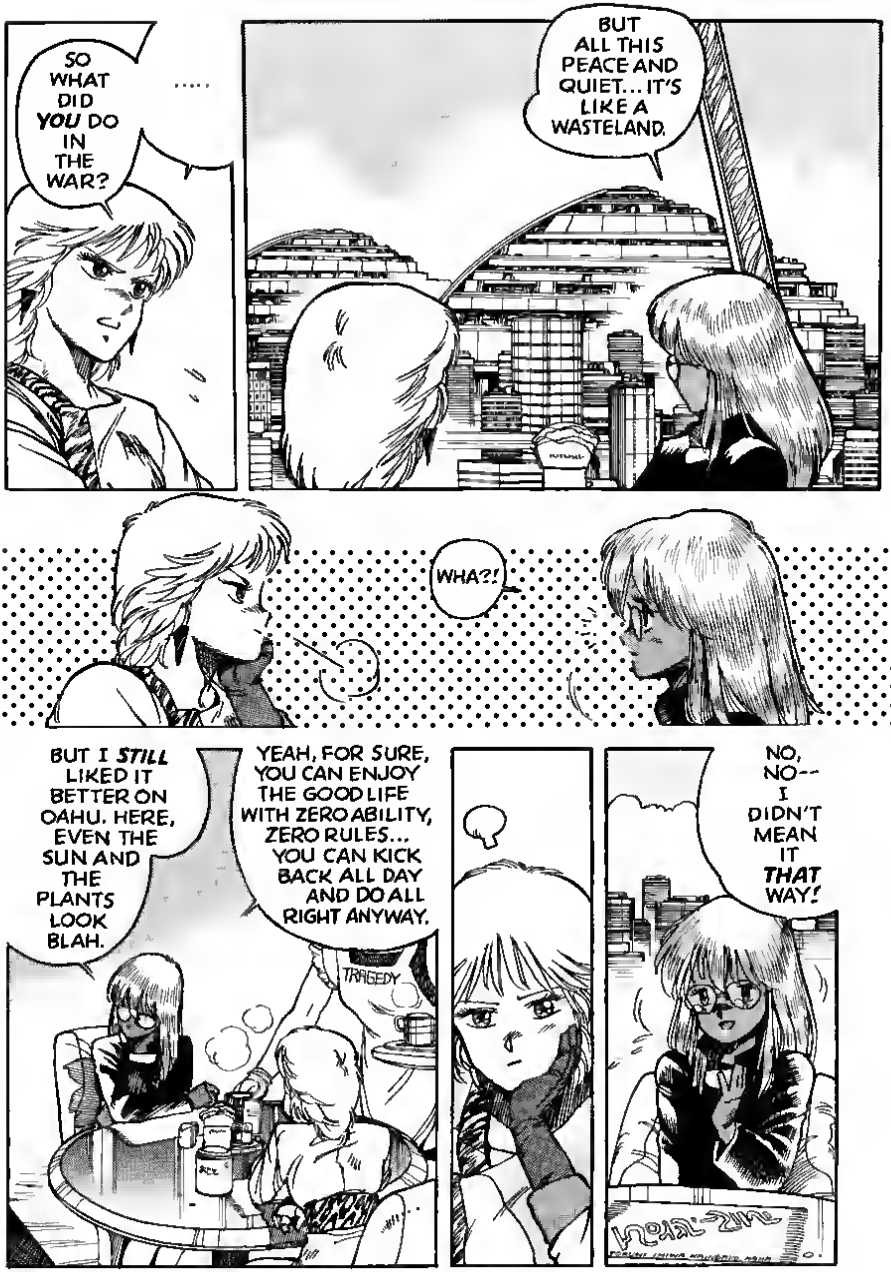
!
GIVE ME ALESA.
FORCE YOUR RESIGNATION, huh?
TIME FOR FIRST STRIKE ...
VERY WELL, MA'AM.
I'LL DO MY BEST.
BUT MA'AM... ISN'T THAT DANGEROUS? THERE'S NO TELLING HOW THEY MIGHT REACT!
START WITH THAT CROWD AT HITOMI'S. DRUG THEIR FOOD AND SEE WHAT THEY DO.
...REAL SAFETY LIES IN CONTROLLING DANGER.
I'LL TAKE FULL RESPONSIBILITY. YOU'VE GOT TO LEARN, NIKE...

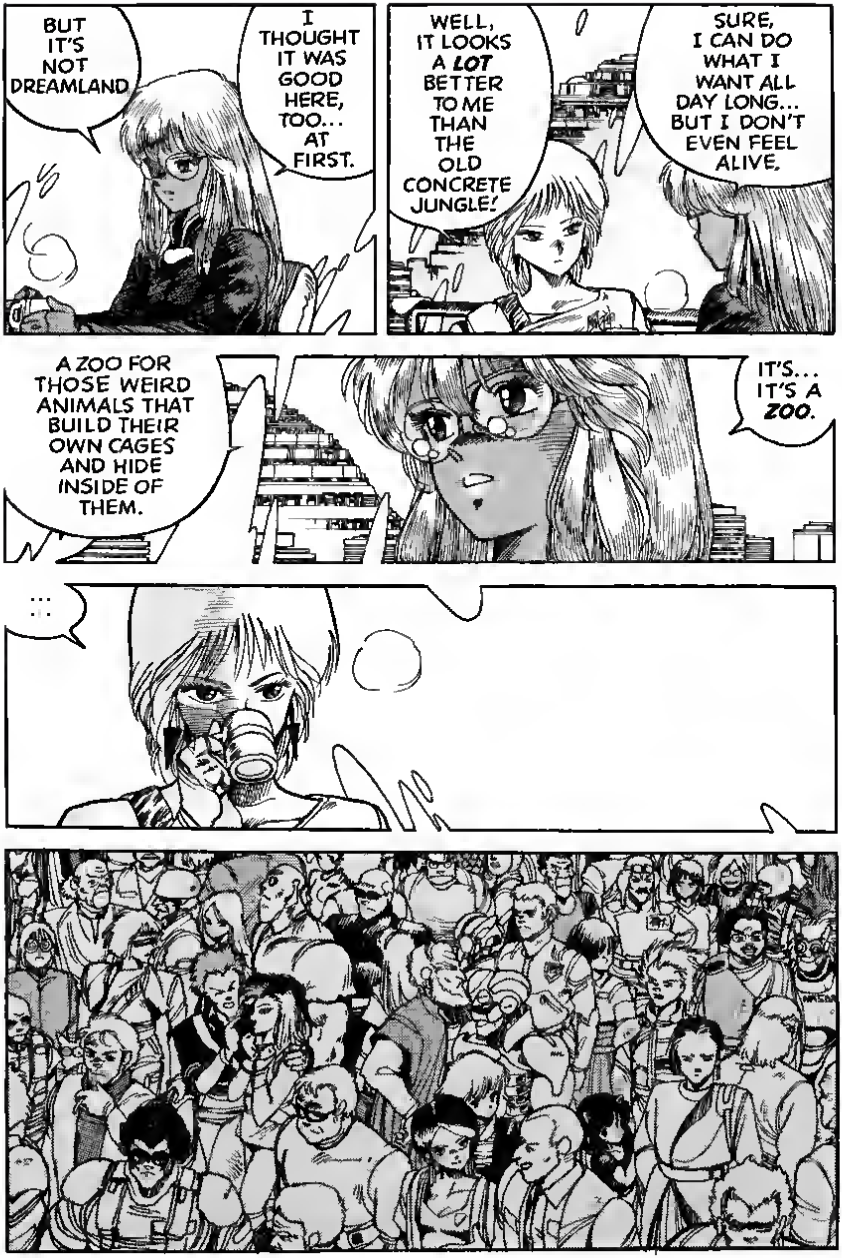


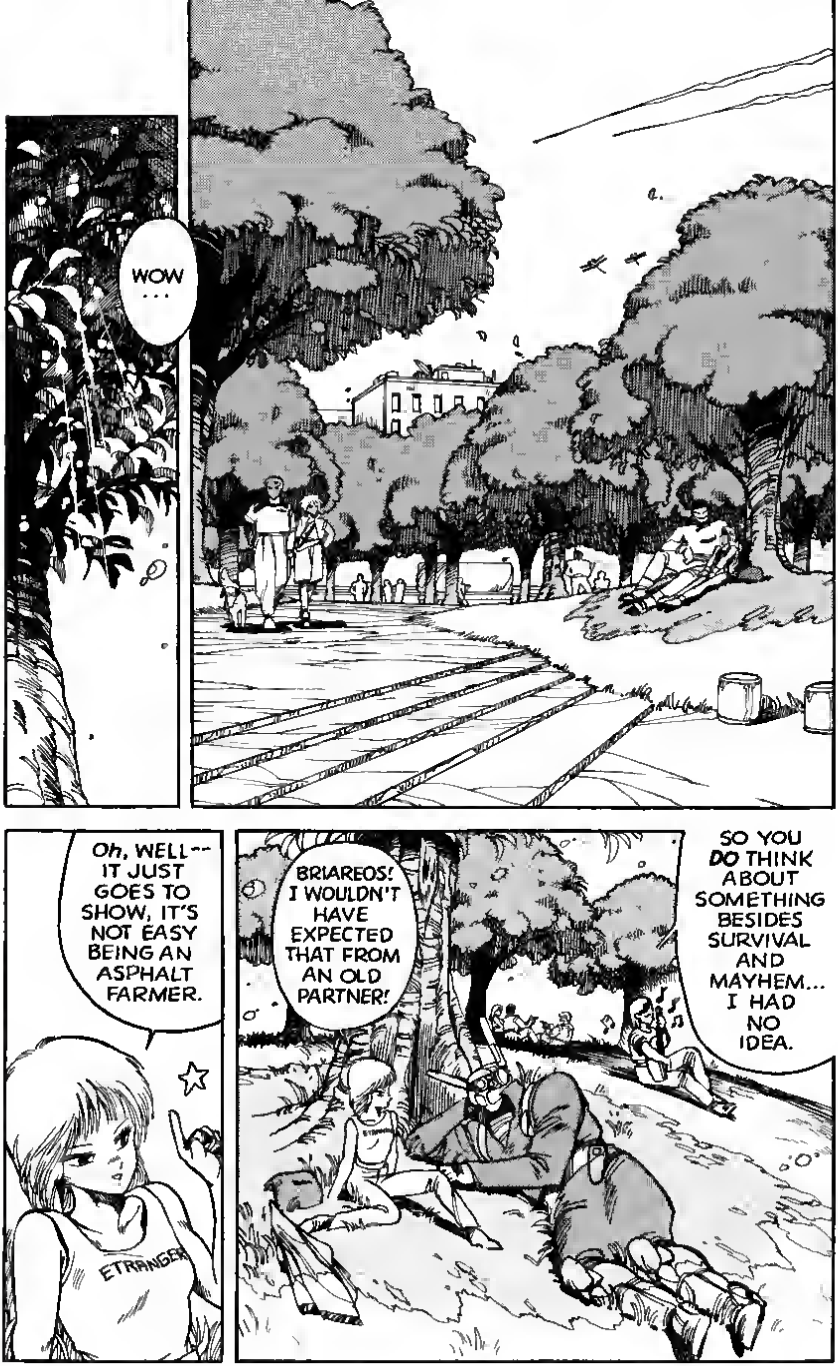

SURE DOES...
IT LOOKS LIKE I COULD PICK UP THOSE BUILDINGS WITH TWO FINGERS!

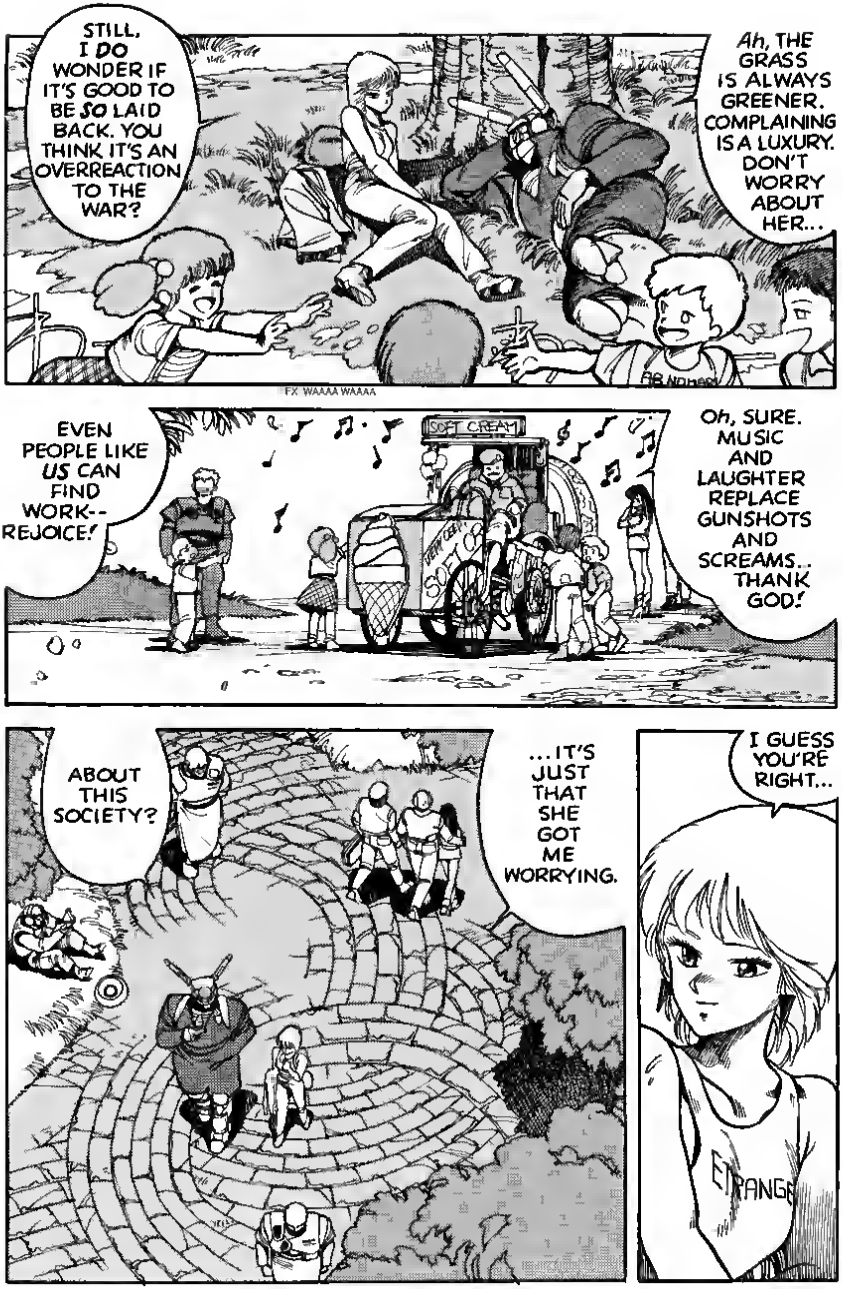

THEY SAY IF YOU REACH YOUR HAND OUT FROM THE BALCONY, YOU CAN GRAB A FISTFUL OF BLUE FIREGLOW...
ALICE
?
TOO BAD THERE ISN'T A THUNDER-STORM ...
Hmm?

SIGH
REALLY! THAT'S HOW HIGH WE ARE.
WOW!
REALLY? SAINT ELMO'S FIRE?
...I HAVEN'T SEEN A SINGLE SOLDIER, THERE AREN'T ANY SLUMS...
IT'S LIKE... UTOPIA.
I HAVEN'T HEARD A POLICE SIREN SINCE I GOT HERE...
Huh?!
IS IT?
...SO MAYBE YOU CAN'T UNDERSTAND.
SOUNDS LIKE YOU WERE AT WAR EVEN BEFORE THE BIG ONE, DEUNAN ...


SO WHAT DID YOU DO IN THE WAR?
.....
BUT ALL THIS PEACE AND QUIET... IT'S LIKE A WASTELAND.
WHA?!
BUT I STILL LIKED IT BETTER ON OAHU. HERE, EVEN THE SUN AND THE PLANTS LOOK BLAH.
YEAH, FOR SURE, YOU CAN ENJOY THE GOOD LIFE WITH ZERO ABILITY, ZERO RULES... YOU CAN KICK BACK ALL DAY AND DO ALL RIGHT ANYWAY.
TRAGEDY
NO, NO-- I DIDN'T MEAN IT THAT WAY!


BUT IT'S NOT DREAMLAND
I THOUGHT IT WAS GOOD HERE, TOO... AT FIRST.
WELL, IT LOOKS A LOT BETTER TO ME THAN THE OLD CONCRETE JUNGLE!
SURE, I CAN DO WHAT I WANT ALL DAY LONG... BUT I DON'T EVEN FEEL ALIVE.
A ZOO FOR THOSE WEIRD ANIMALS THAT BUILD THEIR OWN CAGES AND HIDE INSIDE OF THEM.
IT'S... IT'S A ZOO.
...


WOW . . .
Oh, WELL-- IT JUST GOES TO SHOW, IT'S NOT EASY BEING AN ASPHALT FARMER.
ETRANGER
BRIAREOS! I WOULDN'T HAVE EXPECTED THAT FROM AN OLD PARTNER!
SO YOU DO THINK ABOUT SOMETHING BESIDES SURVIVAL AND MAYHEM... I HAD NO IDEA.


STILL, I DO WONDER IF IT'S GOOD TO BE SO LAID BACK. YOU THINK IT'S AN OVERREACTION TO THE WAR?
Ah, THE GRASS IS ALWAYS GREENER. COMPLAINING IS A LUXURY. DON'T WORRY ABOUT HER...
FX: WAAAA WAAAA
EVEN PEOPLE LIKE US CAN FIND WORK-- REJOICE!
SOFT CREAM
Oh, SURE. MUSIC AND LAUGHTER REPLACE GUNSHOTS AND SCREAMS... THANK GOD!
ABOUT THIS SOCIETY?
...IT'S JUST THAT SHE GOT ME WORRYING.
I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT...
ETRANGE

FX SQUEEK SQUEEK
Oh, NUTHIN' ...
SHE HAD TO MEET SOME-- HEY! WHAT ARE YOU THINKING!?
SKRTCH SKRTCH
きゅ、きゅ、
SAY... WASN'T SHE SUPPOSED TO COME WITH YOU?
WELL, IF EVERYONE'S BEHAVING THEMSELVES FOR THE SAME REASONS SHE IS, THEN MAYBE SOMETHING IS WRONG.
ADIEU!
I'LL GO TURN IN OUR APPLICATIONS TO THE POLICE. WHAT WAS IT YOU WANTED? OFFICE WORK, RIGHT?
YEAH, SURE! IDIOT!
WELL, I'M OFF TO AKECHI MOTORS ...

POLICE
POLICE
Oh, GOOD HEAVENS, NO! OF COURSE YOU TWO DON'T NEED EXTRA TRAINING!!
FX. SKRTCH SKRTCH
?!
YES, SIR! IT SHOULD ALL BE READY TOMORROW, YES INDEED... Eh?
IN FACT, IT'S AN HONOR TO BE ABLE TO MEET YOU IN PERSON! THIS IS GREAT! I'LL GIVE IT TOP PRIORITY IN POSTINGS!
WE PICK UP OUR GUNS AND OTHER GEAR AT OUR POSTS?
WELL, LET US KNOW WHEN IT'S DECIDED, ALL RIGHT?

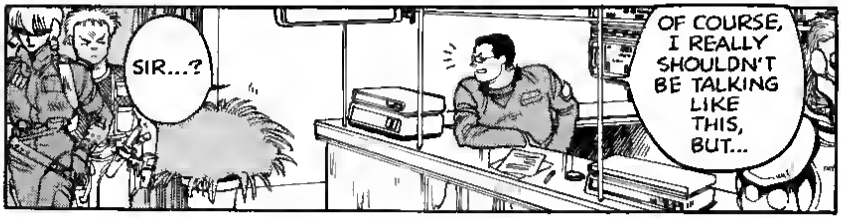
Uh... SIR?
COMPARED TO VANCOUVER, NEW YORK, OR L.A., YOU'LL THINK YOU'RE ON VACATION.
Uh... ANYWAY, WEAPONS ARE STRICTLY FORBIDDEN HERE. THE CRIME RATE'S AS LOW AS IN JAPAN BEFORE THE WAR.
HEY!
IT'S ME! ME! YOUR OLD POINT MAN, BRIAREOS!
?
VERUND! YOU'RE STILL ALIVE?!
I MAKE A POINT OF REMEMBERING PEOPLE'S NAMES, BUT... SORRY-- HAVE WE MET BEFORE?
Oh, COME OFF IT! YOU'RE NOT SO SENILE YOU CAN'T REMEMBER ME!

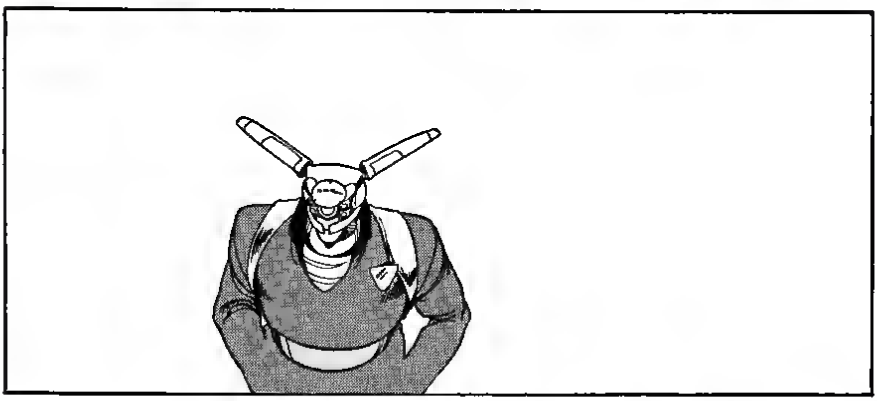
...?!
LOOK, I'M SORRY, BUT I DON'T WORK HERE. IF YOU'VE GOT BUSINESS WITH ME, YOU CAN TELL ME ABOUT IT ON THE WAY TO MY CAR.
CUT THE CRAP! IS THIS SOME ROUTINE YOU RUN WITH THE ROOKIES?
...IT COULD BE HE'S A *CLONE** OF YOUR FRIEND, SIR.
H-HE'S A PUBLIC SERVANT, REPORTING STRAIGHT TO THE *DIRECTOR* SINCE BEFORE THE WAR ... NAME OF *ARUGESS.* Uhh...
Y-YES, SIR!
HEY! YOU KNOW THAT GUY?!
FX: BAM
A CLONE?
IF YOU COUNT THE UNITS WITH MACROMOLECULAR PROCESSED COMPONENTS, A GOOD EIGHTY PERCENT OF THE POPULATION ARE CLONES.
YES, SIR. A HUMAN ARTIFICIALLY CREATED FROM A GENETIC PATTERN TAKEN FROM A SPECIFIC DONOR. WE CALL CLONES WITH GENETIC MATERIAL FROM MULTIPLE MOTHER-SOURCES *NYBRIDS.** WHEN THEY GO THROUGH SPECIAL PROCESSING, WE CALL THEM *BIOROIDS.*

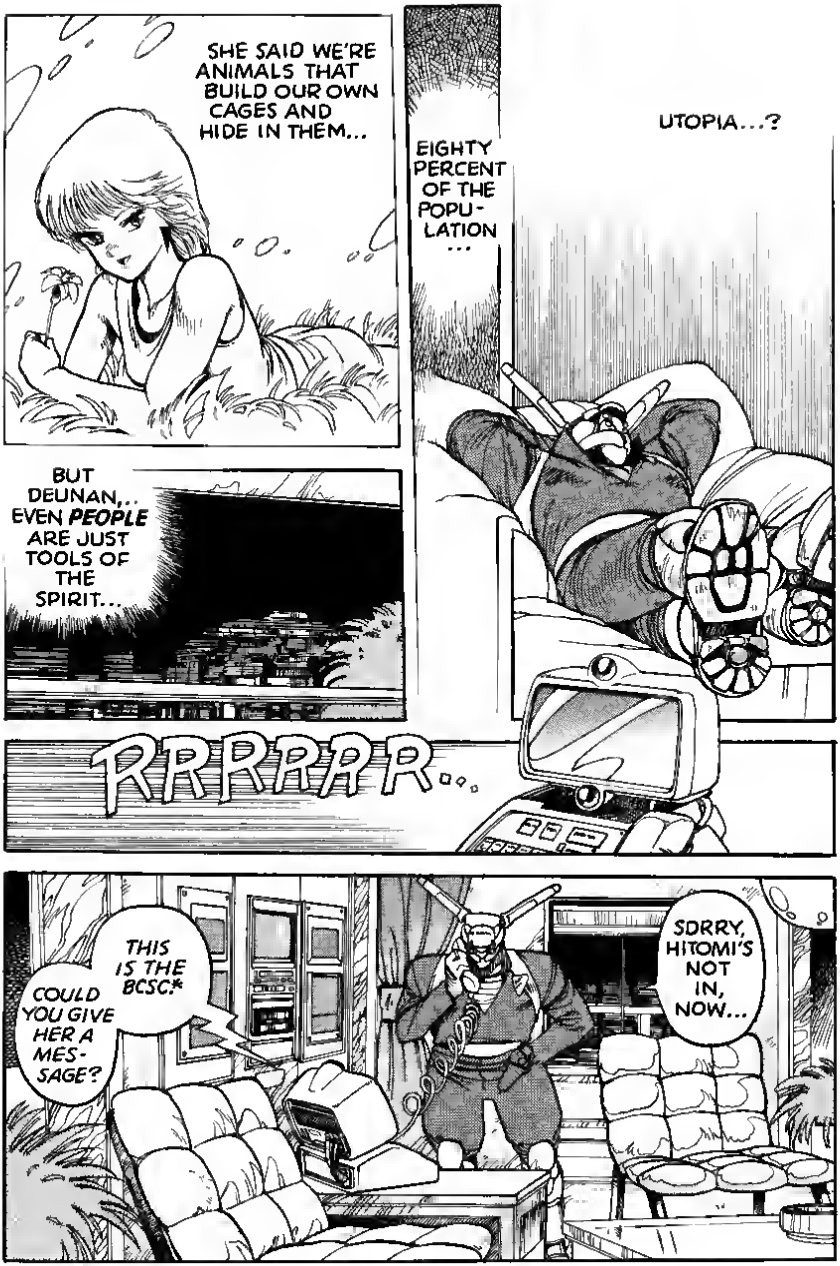
*clone. By dividing fertilized eggs, it's possible to create a genetic duplicate. It's already used in animal husbandry. The presence of multiple mothers is called genetic invervention.

*hybrid: a mixed type, a crossbreed

OLYMPUS IS LEADING THE WORLD TO A BRIGHTER FUTURE. WE *NEED* A LOT OF THEM.
PERSONALITY AND EMOTIONAL RESPONSES CAN BE CONDITIONED BY TRAINING, EDUCATION, AND THE CHILD-REARING ENVIRONMENT... IN A SENSE, THEY'RE THE MOST COMPACT, COMPLEX, AND SOPHISTICATED ROBOTS IMAGINABLE.


SIR...?
OF COURSE, I REALLY SHOULDN'T BE TALKING LIKE THIS, BUT...

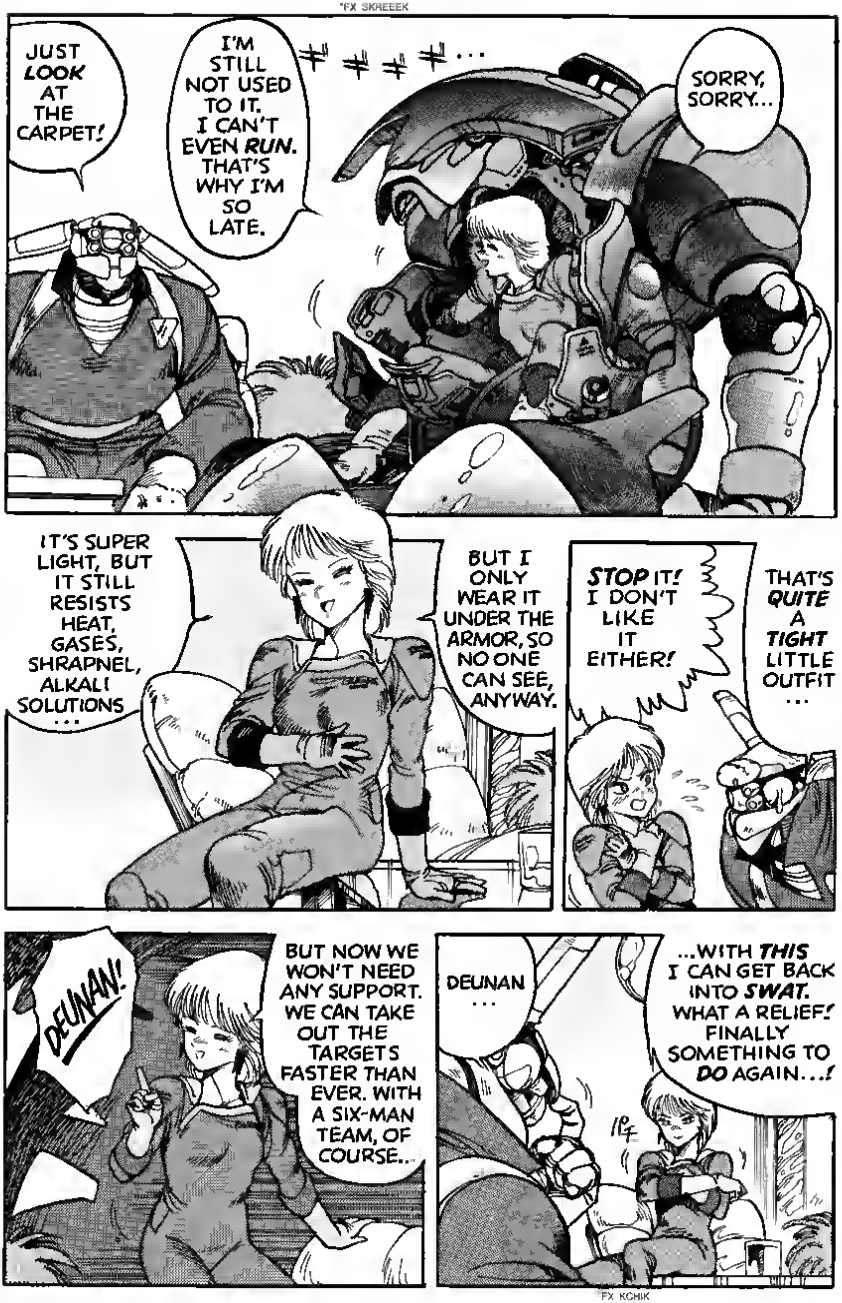


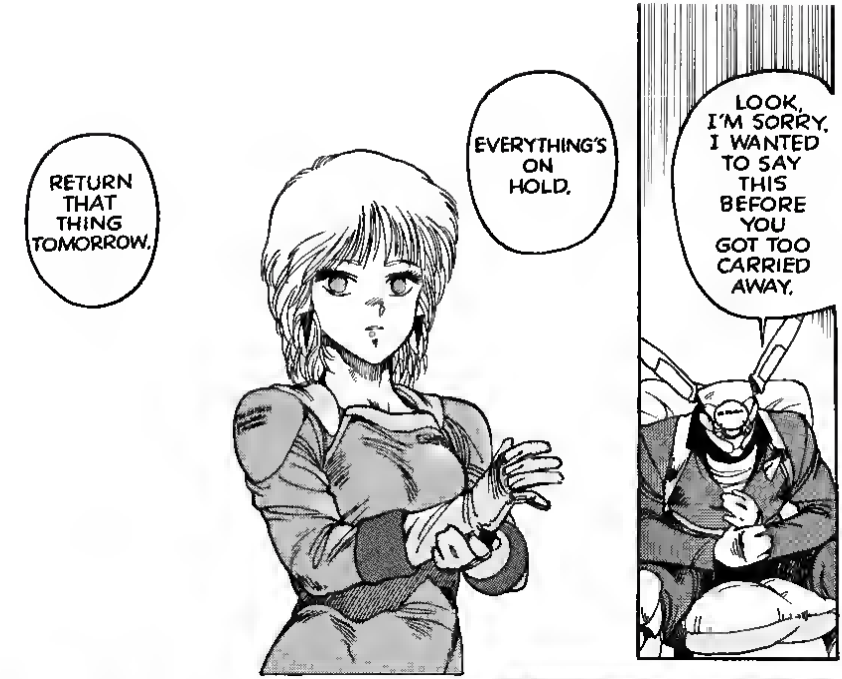

SHE SAID WE'RE ANIMALS THAT BUILD OUR OWN CAGES AND HIDE IN THEM...
EIGHTY PERCENT OF THE POPU-LATION ...
UTOPIA...?
BUT DEUNAN,.. EVEN PEOPLE ARE JUST TOOLS OF THE SPIRIT...
RRRRRR...
COULD YOU GIVE HER A MES-SAGE?
THIS IS THE BCSC.*
SORRY, HITOMI'S NOT IN, NOW...

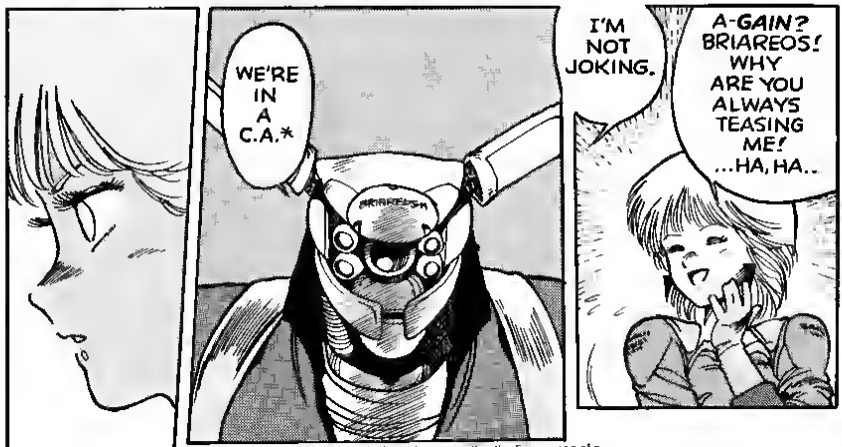
*BCSC - BIOCONTROL SERVICE CENTER

IF SHE DOESN'T COME IN IMMEDIATELY, THERE'S NOTHING WE--
BY NOW, SHE SHOULD BE EXPERIENCING ANEMIA AND A SHARP DROP IN ENERGY LEVELS AS HER BODY TEMPERATURE FALLS. SHE'S PROBABLY SLEEPING LONGER, A SIGN OF HER BIO-LOGICAL SYSTEMS TRYING TO RECHARGE ON THEIR OWN.
I'LL PASS IT ON.
.....
SHE'S ALREADY TWO DAYS LATE!
IT'S TIME FOR HER PERIODIC LONGEVITY PROCESSING.
TAK
FX KLIK
WAIT A MINUTE ...!
FX WHFF
HITOMI, TOO ...
FX FWMP
...MAYBE THIS IS WHAT THE WAR WAS ALL ABOUT...
A UTOPIAN CITY RUN BY PERFECT PEOPLE. GLOBAL MANAGEMENT. IT'S ALL TOO MUCH...

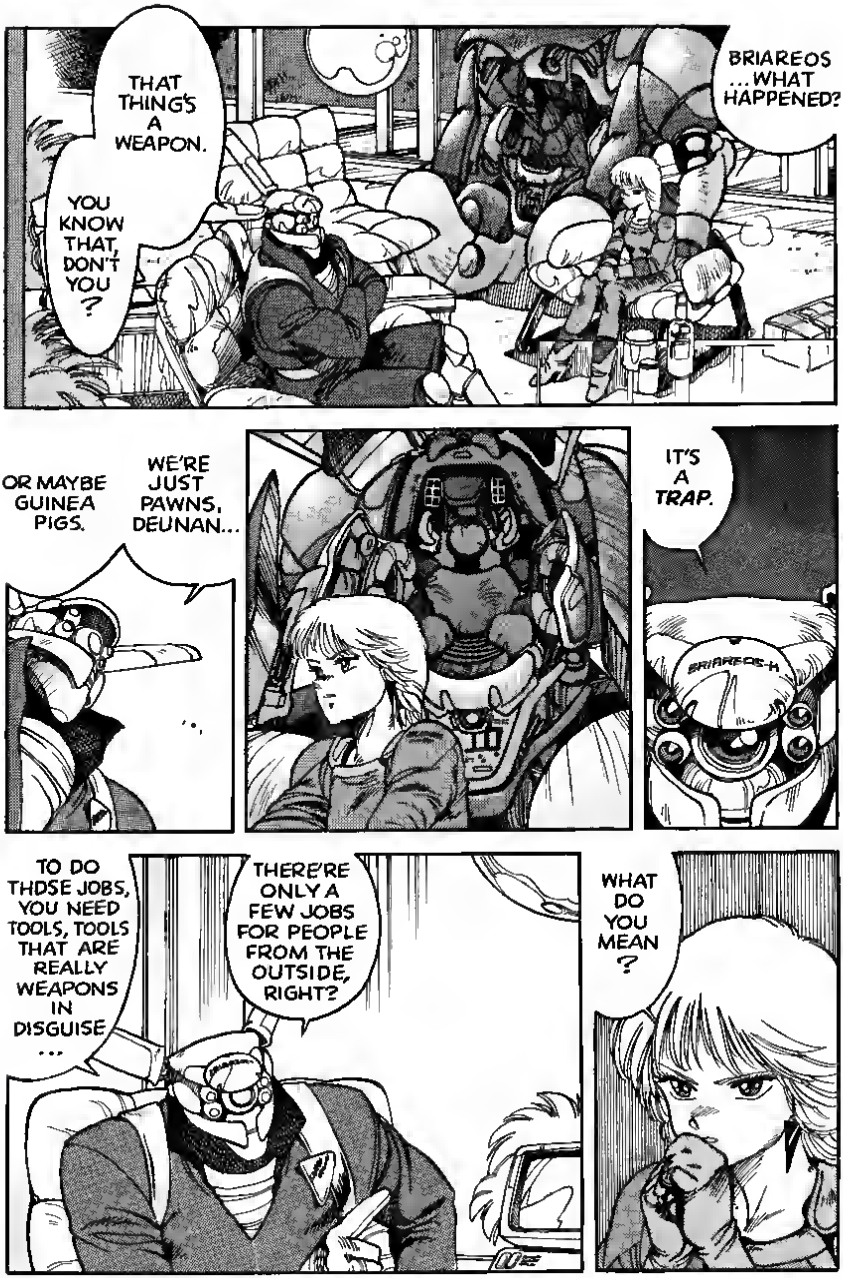
FX FSHH
FX GCHNK
BOO!
?!
I'M HOME...!
WHA--
GHAA... THREW OUT MY BACK...
おだぜ!!..
WHAT DO YOU THINK?! DIDN'T MAKE A SOUND, DID I? DIDN'T EVEN KNOW I WAS HERE, DID YOU? DID YOU? HA, HAHAHA!
FX OW OWW


*FX SKREEEK
JUST LOOK AT THE CARPET!
I'M STILL NOT USED TO IT. I CAN'T EVEN RUN. THAT'S WHY I'M SO LATE.
SORRY, SORRY...
IT'S SUPER LIGHT, BUT IT STILL RESISTS HEAT, GASES, SHRAPNEL, ALKALI SOLUTIONS ...
BUT I ONLY WEAR IT UNDER THE ARMOR, SO NO ONE CAN SEE, ANYWAY.
STOP IT! I DON'T LIKE IT EITHER!
THAT'S QUITE A TIGHT LITTLE OUTFIT ...
DEUNAN!
BUT NOW WE WON'T NEED ANY SUPPORT. WE CAN TAKE OUT THE TARGETS FASTER THAN EVER. WITH A SIX-MAN TEAM, OF COURSE...
DEUNAN ...
...WITH THIS I CAN GET BACK INTO SWAT. WHAT A RELIEF! FINALLY SOMETHING TO DO AGAIN...!
*FX KCHIK



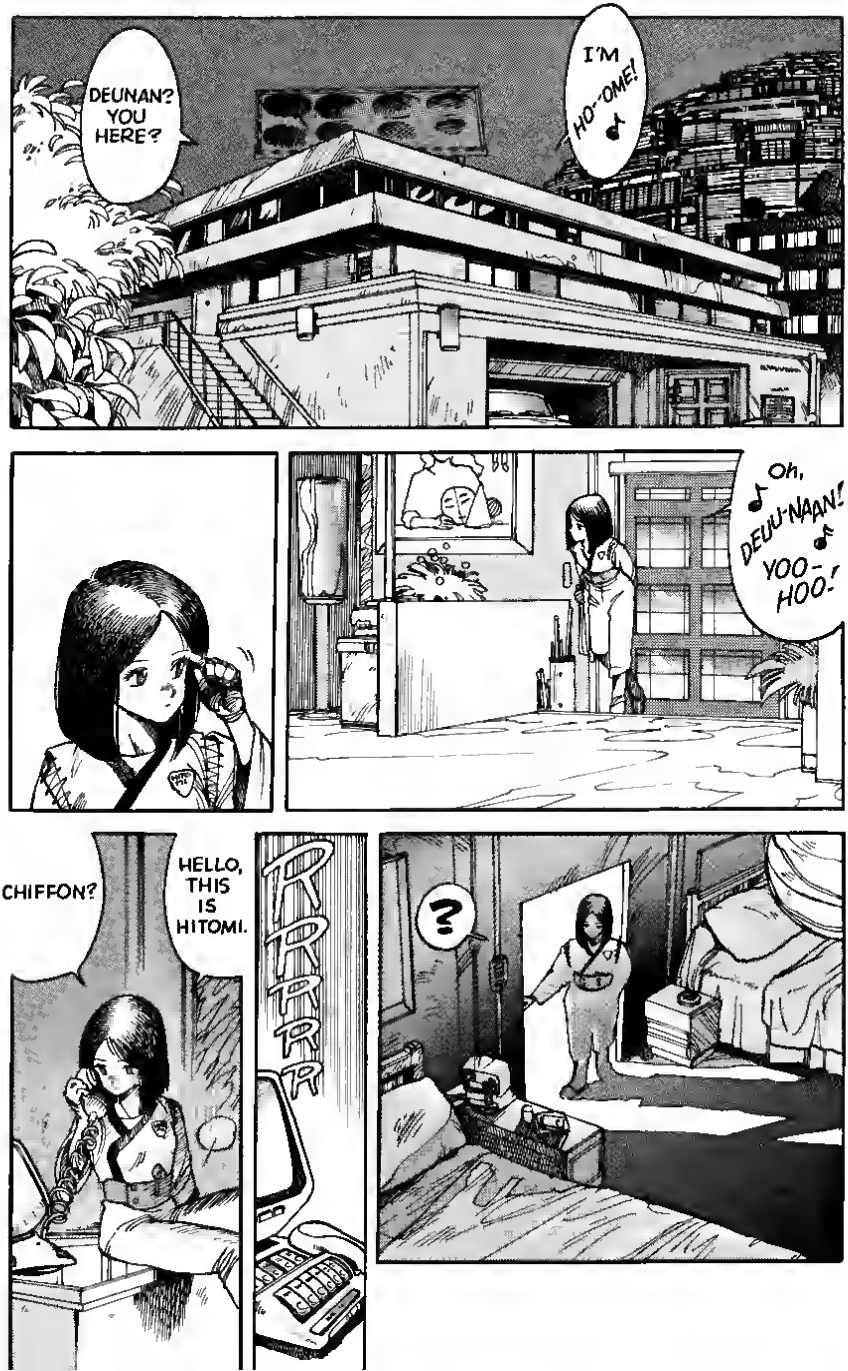


*C.A. Crisis Area. In SWAT terminology the area within the firing range of a suspected enemy—a danger zone.


BRIAREOS ...WHAT HAPPENED?
THAT THING'S A WEAPON.
YOU KNOW THAT, DON'T YOU ?
IT'S A TRAP.
BRIAREOS-H
WE'RE JUST PAWNS, DEUNAN...
OR MAYBE GUINEA PIGS.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN ?
THERE'RE ONLY A FEW JOBS FOR PEOPLE FROM THE OUTSIDE, RIGHT?
TO DO THDSE JOBS, YOU NEED TOOLS, TOOLS THAT ARE REALLY WEAPONS IN DISGUISE ...

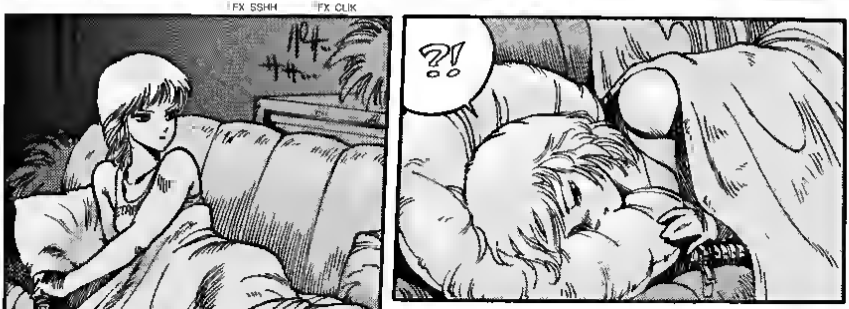
EVEN HITOMI'S ONE!
IF IT'S SO QUIET, THEN WHY DO THEY NEED MACHINES LIKE THAT? I THOUGHT IT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE PEACETIME.
YOU'RE JUST PARANOID!
WHO? AND WHY? IT'S SO QUIET HERE...!
!
GENETIC ENGINEERING'S OUT OF CONTROL.
I'LL TELL YOU WHY EIGHTY PERCENT OF THE PEOPLE HERE ARE ARTIFICIAL.
DEUNAN!
REAL? ARTIFICIAL? A PERSON'S A PERSON!
I--I DON'T GIVE A SHIT!! WHO CARES WHAT SHE IS!

I WON'T! AFTER ALL THE TROUBLE WE'VE GONE THROUGH ...!
PACK UP YOUR GEAR AND GO TO CHIFFON'S PLACE. WAIT THERE UNTIL WE KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON.
DAMMIT, THAT'S NOT THE POINT! FOR THE TIME BEING, JUST DO AS I SAY.
GO.
FX BAM

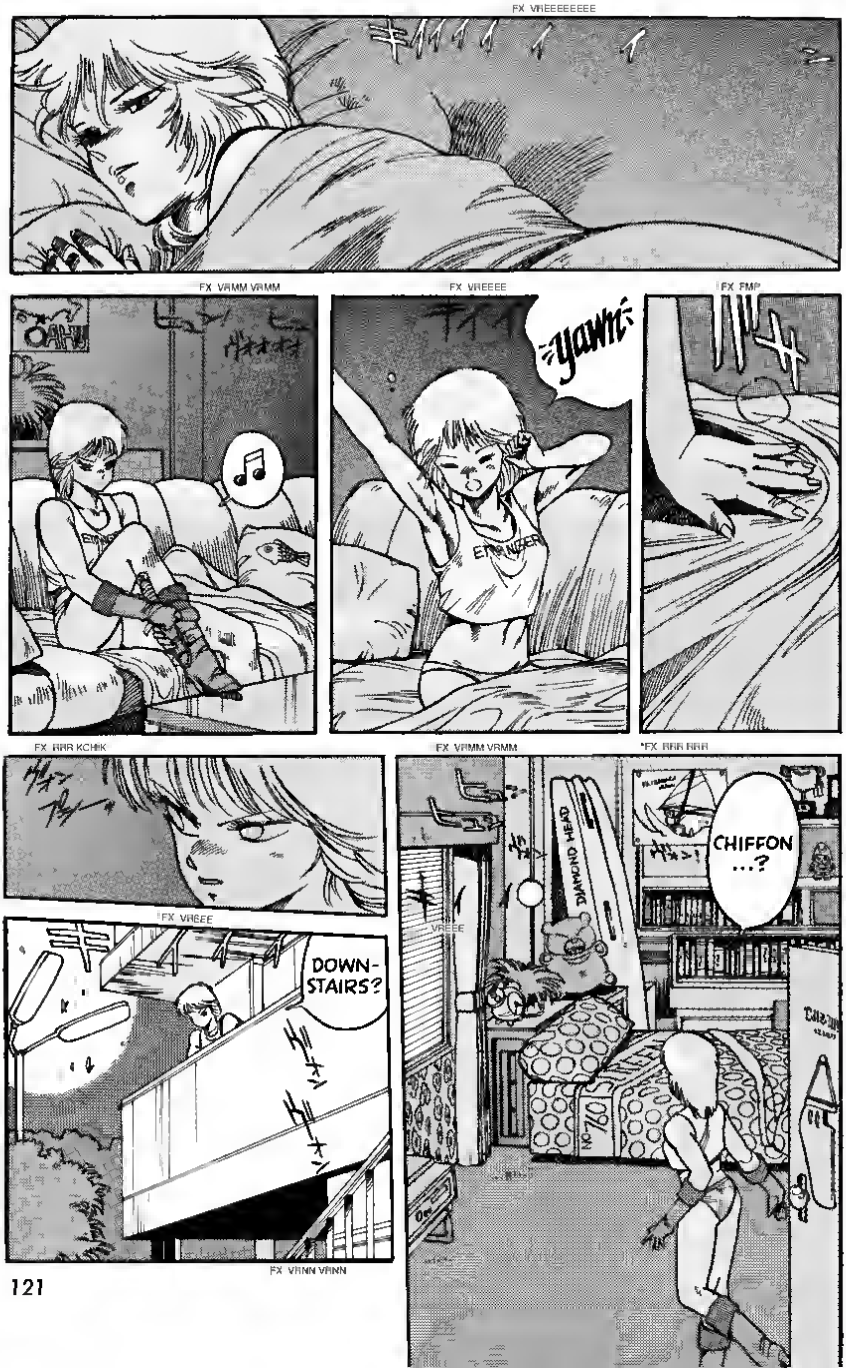

DEUNAN? YOU HERE?
I'M HO-OME!
Oh, DEUU-NAAN! YOO-HOO!
?
RRRR
CHIFFON?
HELLO, THIS IS HITOMI.

...WHAT'S GOING ON...?
YEAH SHE WOULDN'T EAT ANYTHING-- JUST WENT STRAIGHT TO BED...
DEUNAN'S WITH YOU!
WHAT?!
Eh? Oh NO, NO. OKAY. THANKS A LOT.
SHE HAS ALL HER STUFF WITH HER? WELL, COULD YOU PUT HER UP FOR THE NIGHT? I'M REALLY SORRY ABOUT THIS...
?
Gee... DID THEY HAVE A FIGHT OR SOMETHING?
...WHY WOULD BOTH OF THEM RUN AWAY FROM HOME?
STILL...

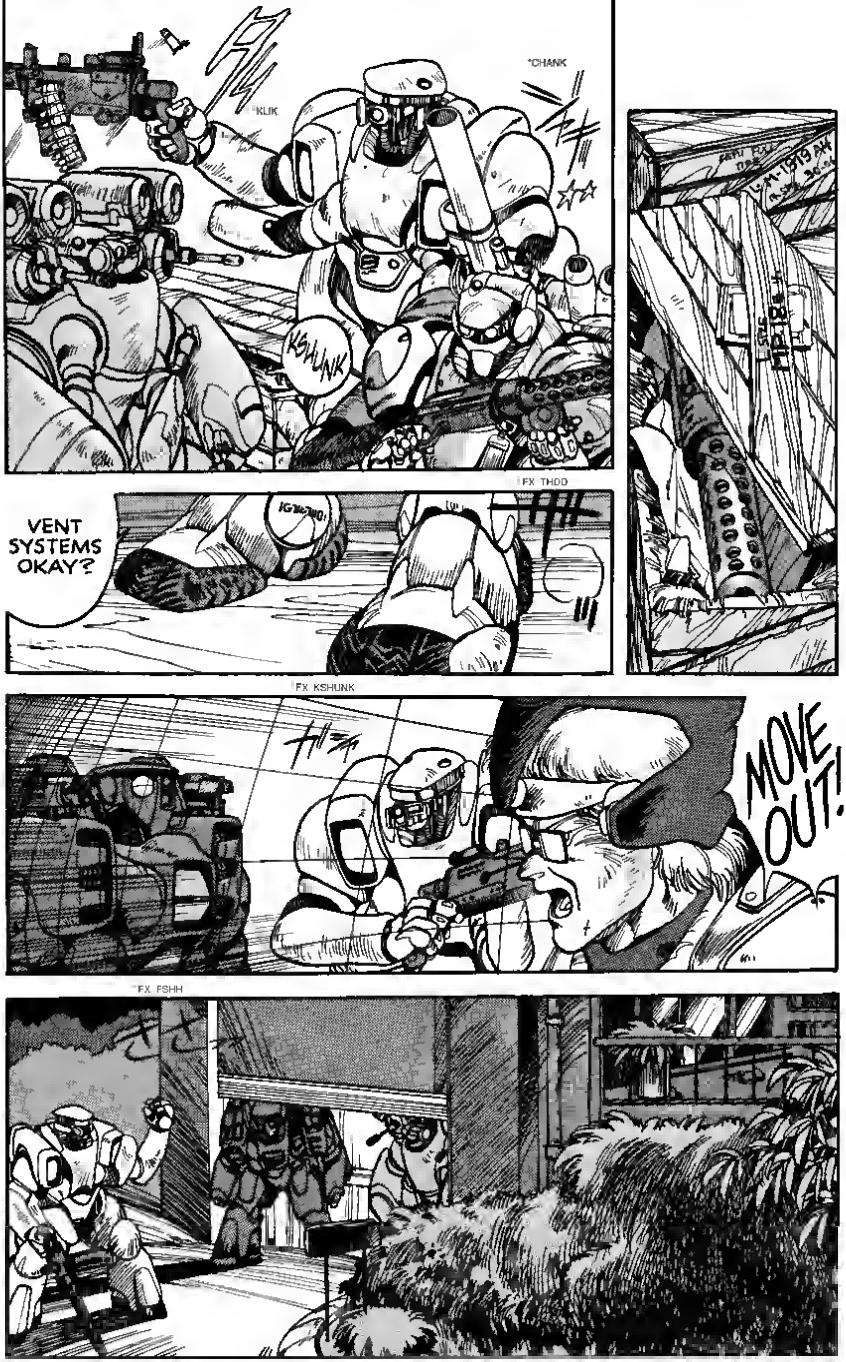
FX KUNK
HA...


FX SSHH
FX CLIK
?!

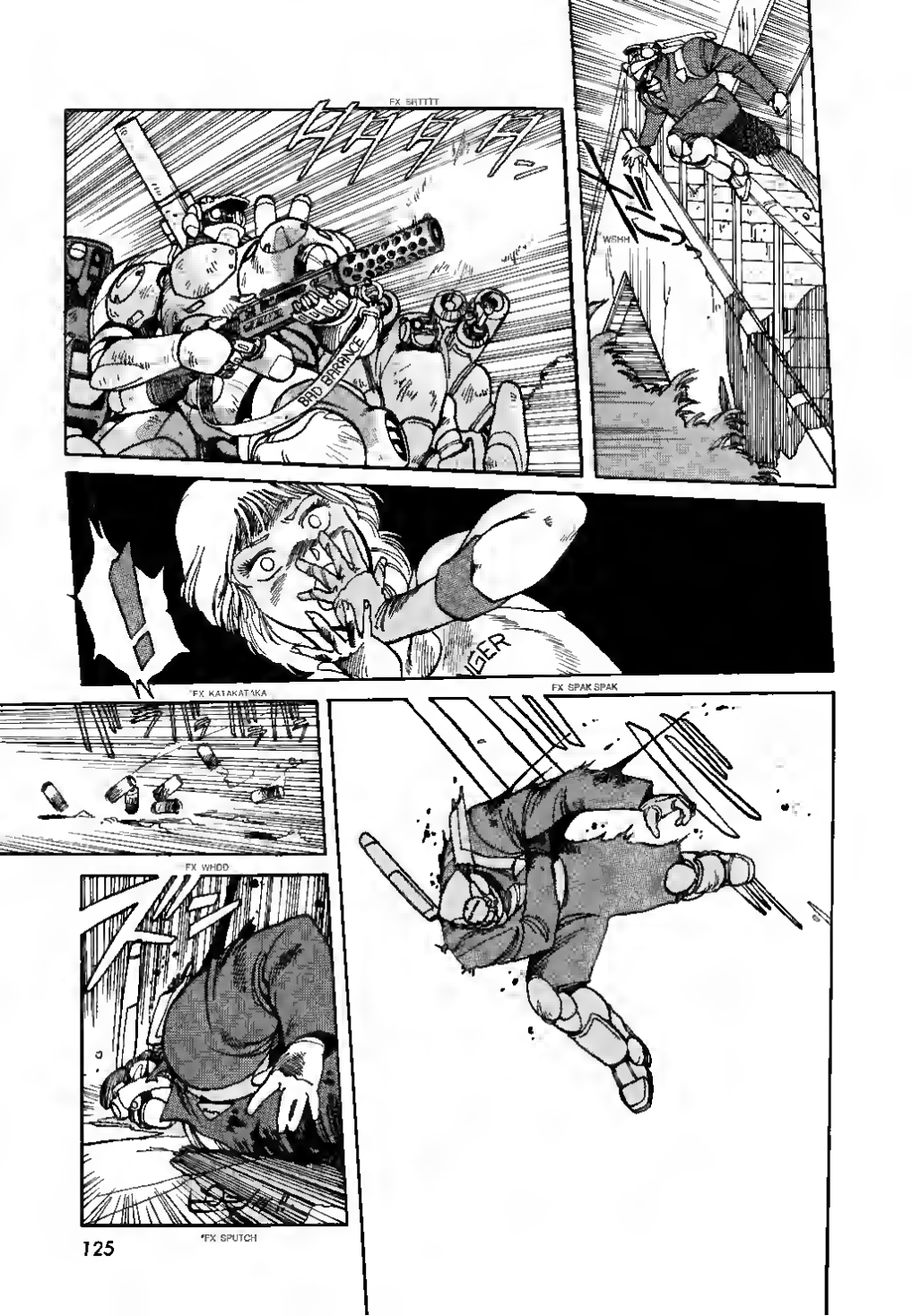
KCHIK
SSHH
KCHIK
CHA!
FX: PMP
FX: KCHIK
FX: KTUNK
FX: SSHH
FX: CHCHIK
FX: CHAK
FX: ZZP
FX: SLAM

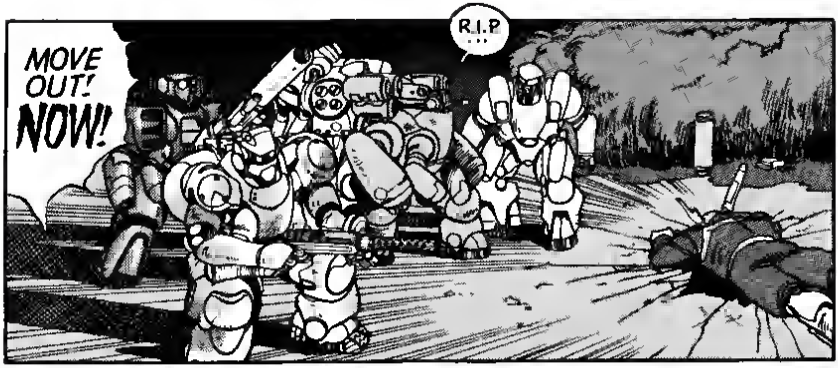

FX VREEEEEEEE
FX VRMM VRMM
FX VREEEE
yawn
FX FMP
FX RRR KCHIK
FX VRMM VRMM
*FX RRR RRR
FX VREEE
DOWN-STAIRS?
FX VRNN VRNN
DIAMOND HEAD
CHIFFON ...?
VREEE

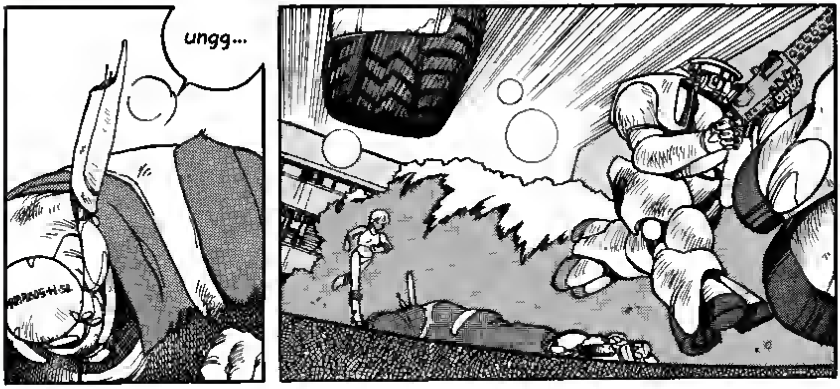
FX: VREEEE
ブーン
HMMM
FX: VRZZT VRZZT
FX: VREEE
KCHAK


*CHANK
*KLIK
KSHUNK
*FX THDD
VENT SYSTEMS OKAY?
*FX KSHUNK
MOVE OUT!
*FX FSHH

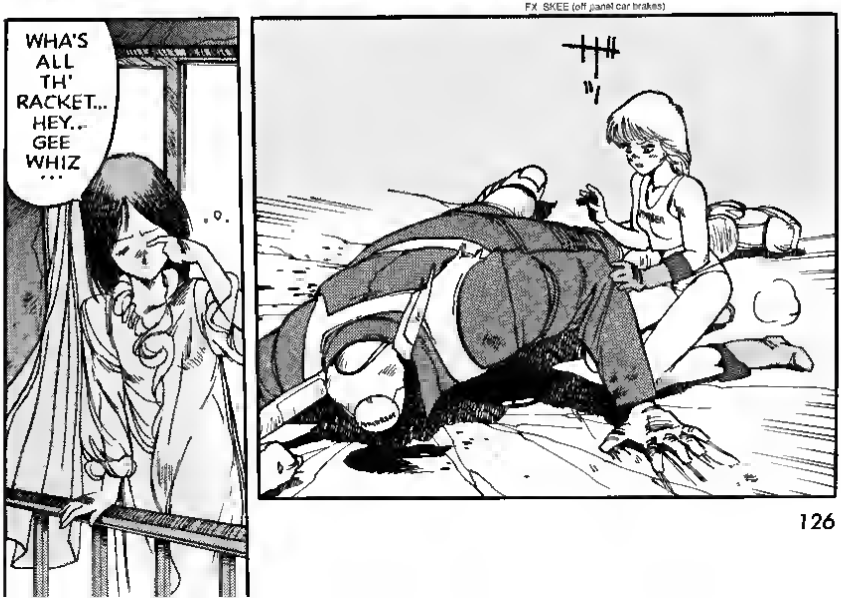
FX: TMP TMP TMP TMP
DAMN IT!
AAA!
Hm?!
?!
WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?!
FIRE!
ETRANGER


FX BRTTTT
BRD BRRRNCE
WEHH
!
IGER
*FX KATAKATAKA
FX SPAK SPAK
FX WHOO
*FX SPUTCH





FX SKEE (off planet car brakes)



BRIAREOS!!
BRIAREOS... HEY...
AAA!
...
YOU...YOU IDIOT!! I MEANT AMBULANCE!!
HOSPITAL AIN'T GONNA COME WHEN YA CALL...
NO! NO! CALL A HOSPITAL!
THANKS, DON'T NEED ANY...
HELP! HELP!
Huh... WHAT A FACE...
FIVE TARGETS, TWO WITH OFFENSIVE WEAPONRY...
YOU BETTER CONTACT THE POLICE... NOW, GO!
NO SHOCK WHEN THEY HIT-- FELT LIKE ANTI-ARMOR AP ROUNDS.

I CAN DO EMERGENCY REPAIRS ON YOUR BIO-PACK!
DEINAN!!
YOU...YOU IDIOT! LOOK AT ALL THIS BLOOD--MUST BE AN ARTERY! STOP TALKING AND SHUT YOURSELF DOWN!
STRANGER
FX WEEOOWEEOOWEEOO
THEY'RE TOO TOUGH FOR THESE INEXPERIENCED COPS TO HANDLE ...!
BRI... BRIAREOS !
THEY'RE :KOFF: THEY'RE GETTING AWAY!
FX WEEOOWEEOOWEEOOWEEOOWEEOO
WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?! GO!!
I'M ALL... ALL RIGHT! I'LL SHUT DOWN AS SOON AS YOU LEAVE!

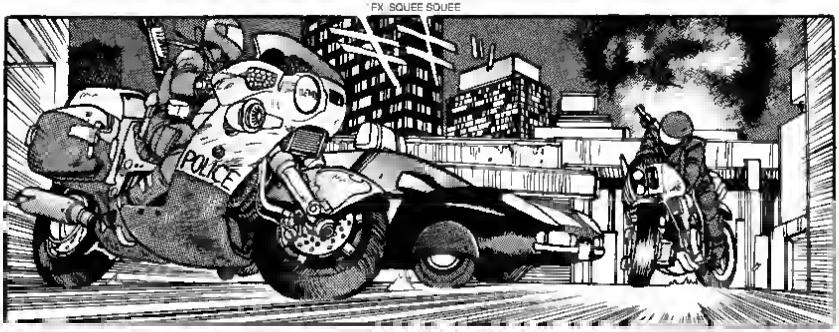
FX WEEOOWEEOOWEEOOWEEOO
STRANGER
FX WSHH
DEUNAN?!
POLIC
HEY! HURRY UP WITH THAT AX54! WE'LL CRACK HIS CASE ENROUTE!
WHAT?! ARE YOU KIDDING?!
WELL, WELL... THIS SHOULD BE AN EXCITING OPERATION, eheh, heh heh..
Hurm... IT ENTERED HERE, PIERCED THE HEAT TRANSFER UNIT MEMBRANE AND LODGED IN HIS BIOSYSTEM.

SHE NEEDS... AN EIGHT-MAN SUPPORT TEAM... CONTACT E.S.W.A.T. ...
DEU... KOFF... DEUNAN...
Oh, DOCTOR ...? SHOULD WE USE AN ANTI-COAGU-LANT?
IF I HEAR ANOTHER PEEP FROM YOU OR THE PATIENT I'LL STUFF YOUR MOUTH WITH SALT AND STITCH IT SHUT!
H-HEY! WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?!
FX UHK UHK
FX SHOVE
GHH!
SHADDAP, YOU!
FX WEEOOWEEOO
.....
FX BRMM BRMM
FX VRMVRMMVRM
NOW WHAT?! WHAZZAT?
FX VREEEEE
M.D. MARSHA & INVINCIBLE SIK-NURSE

FX SKREE
FX FSHH
FX VREEEE
FX WHSS
FX KACHK
FX VUU VUU VUU VUU VUU VUU
FSHH
FSHH
CHKK
CHKK
CHKK
CHKK
H·R·GIGER

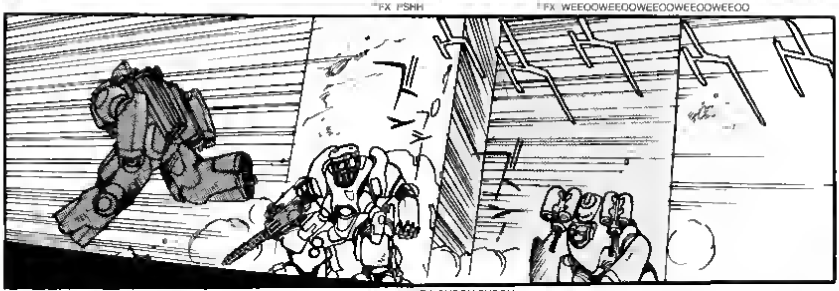
*FX: TMP TMP TMP TMP
*FX: WEEOOWLEOOWEEOOWEEOO
POL
*FX: WEEOOWEEOO
KA-CHIK
OKAY, DO IT.
THEY'RE FIVE MINUTES EARLY ?!
*FX: WHOOM

FX SQUEE SQUEE

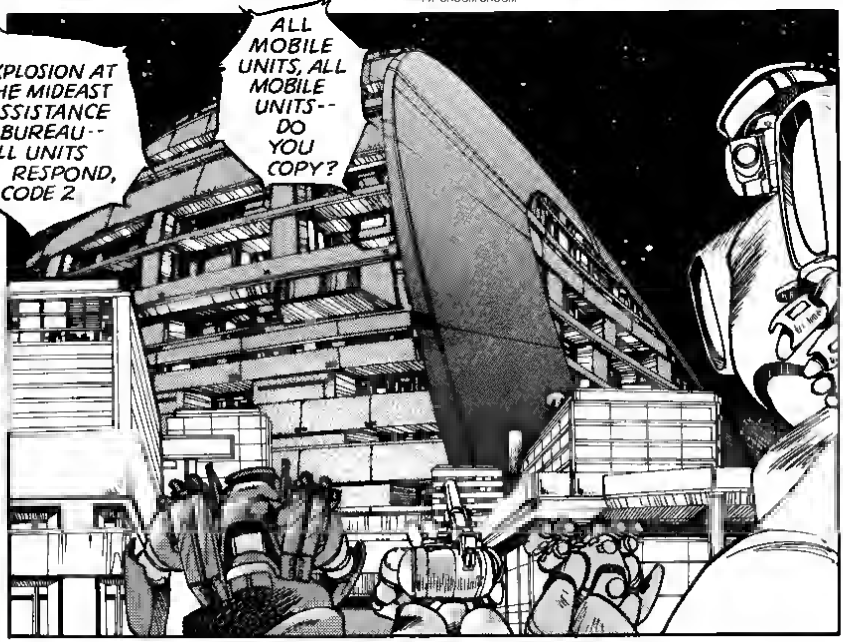


FX PSHH

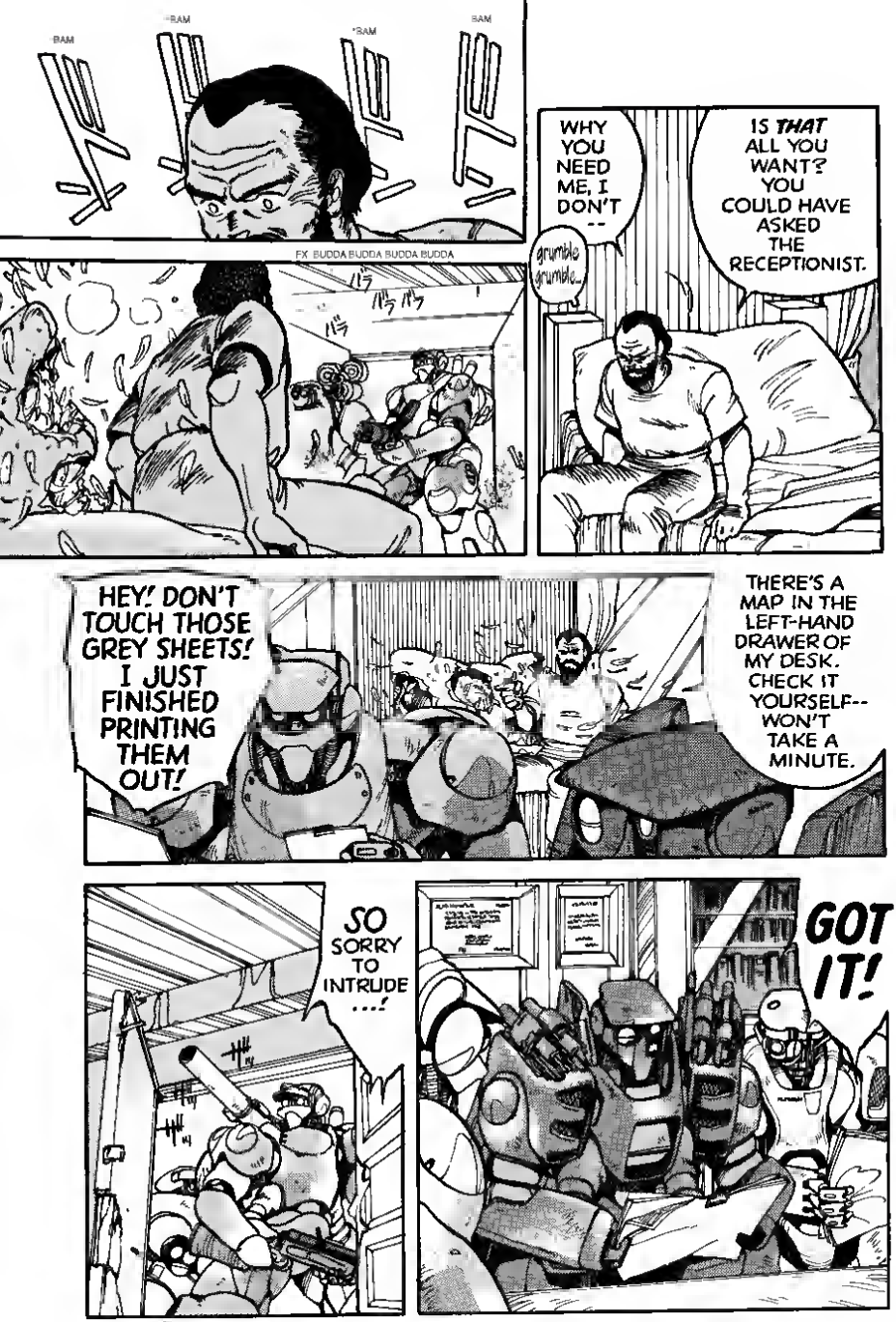
FX WEEOOWEEOOWEEOOWEEOOWEEOO



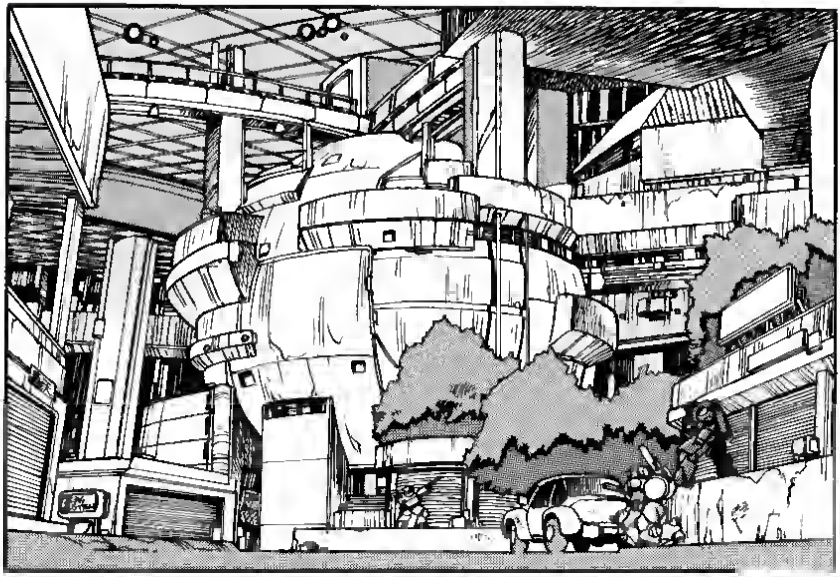
FX SHOOM SHOOM

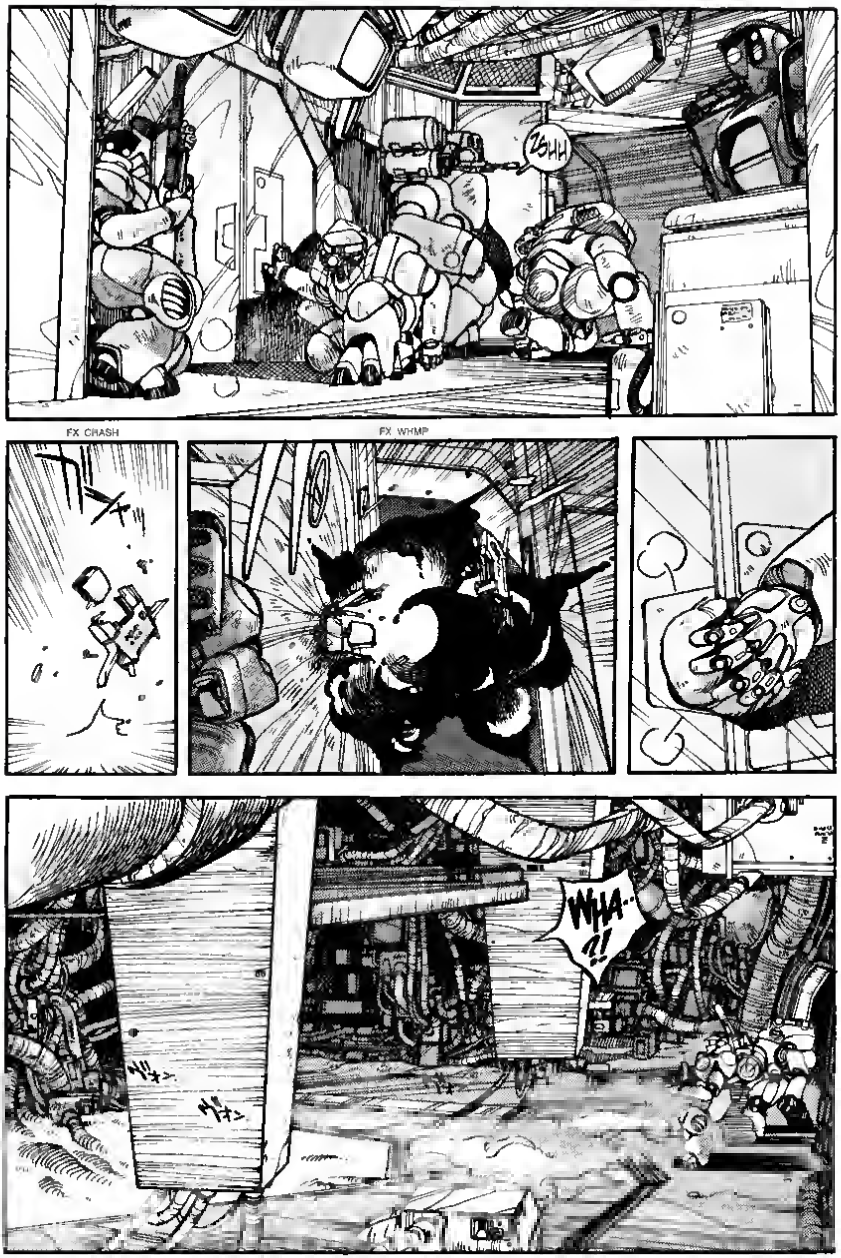


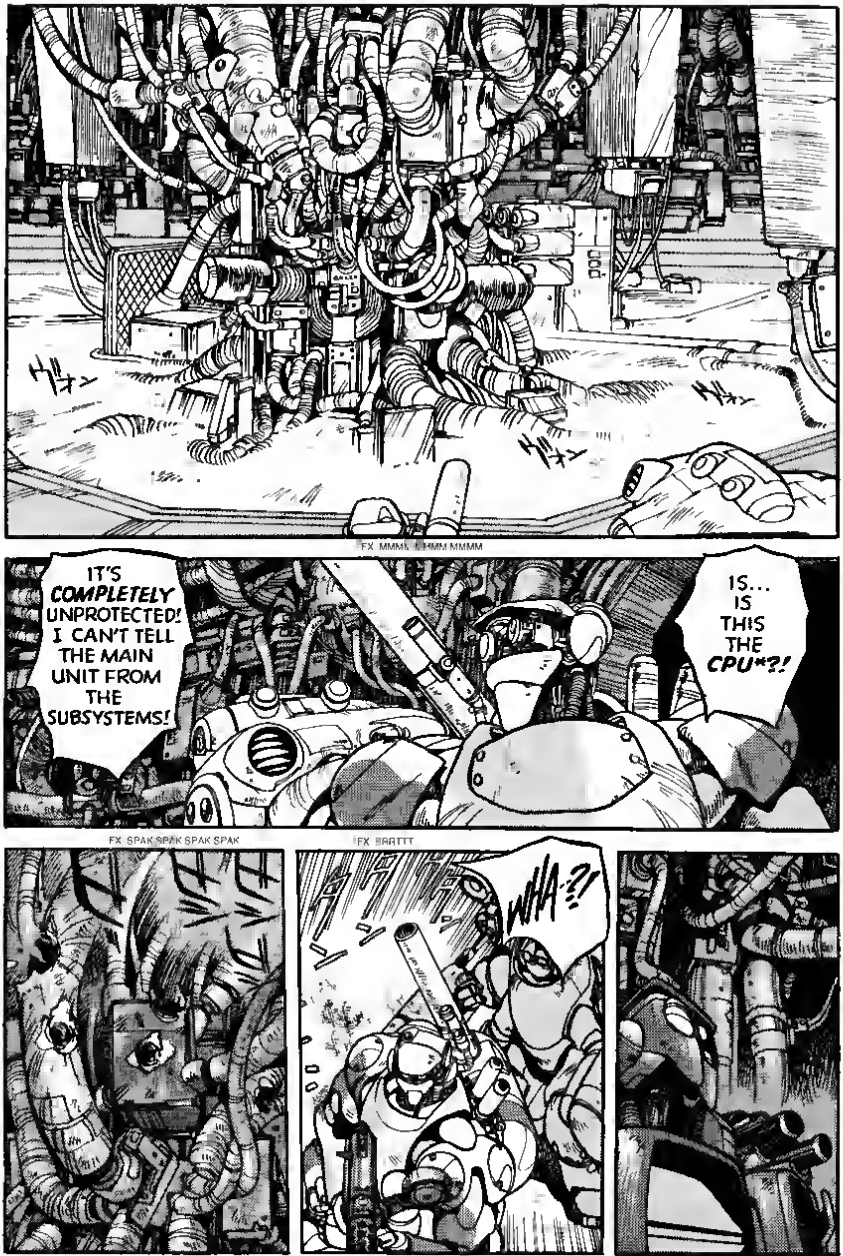
FX BAMM
FX KRUMBLE KRUMBLE
YOU SHOULD KNOCK BEFORE ENTERING ...
WHERE ARE YOUR MANNERS?
WHERE IS GAIA?!
WHERE IS IT?! ANSWER ME!!
WE'RE LOOKING FOR THAT SUPERCOMPUTER, THE ONE THE COUNCIL THEORISTS USE!


BAM
BAM
BAM
BAM
FX: BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA
バラ
バラバラ
バラ
WHY YOU NEED ME, I DON'T --
grumble grumble...
IS THAT ALL YOU WANT? YOU COULD HAVE ASKED THE RECEPTIONIST.
HEY! DON'T TOUCH THOSE GREY SHEETS! I JUST FINISHED PRINTING THEM OUT!
THERE'S A MAP IN THE LEFT-HAND DRAWER OF MY DESK. CHECK IT YOURSELF-- WON'T TAKE A MINUTE.
SO SORRY TO INTRUDE ...!
GOT IT!
FX: TMP TMP TMP

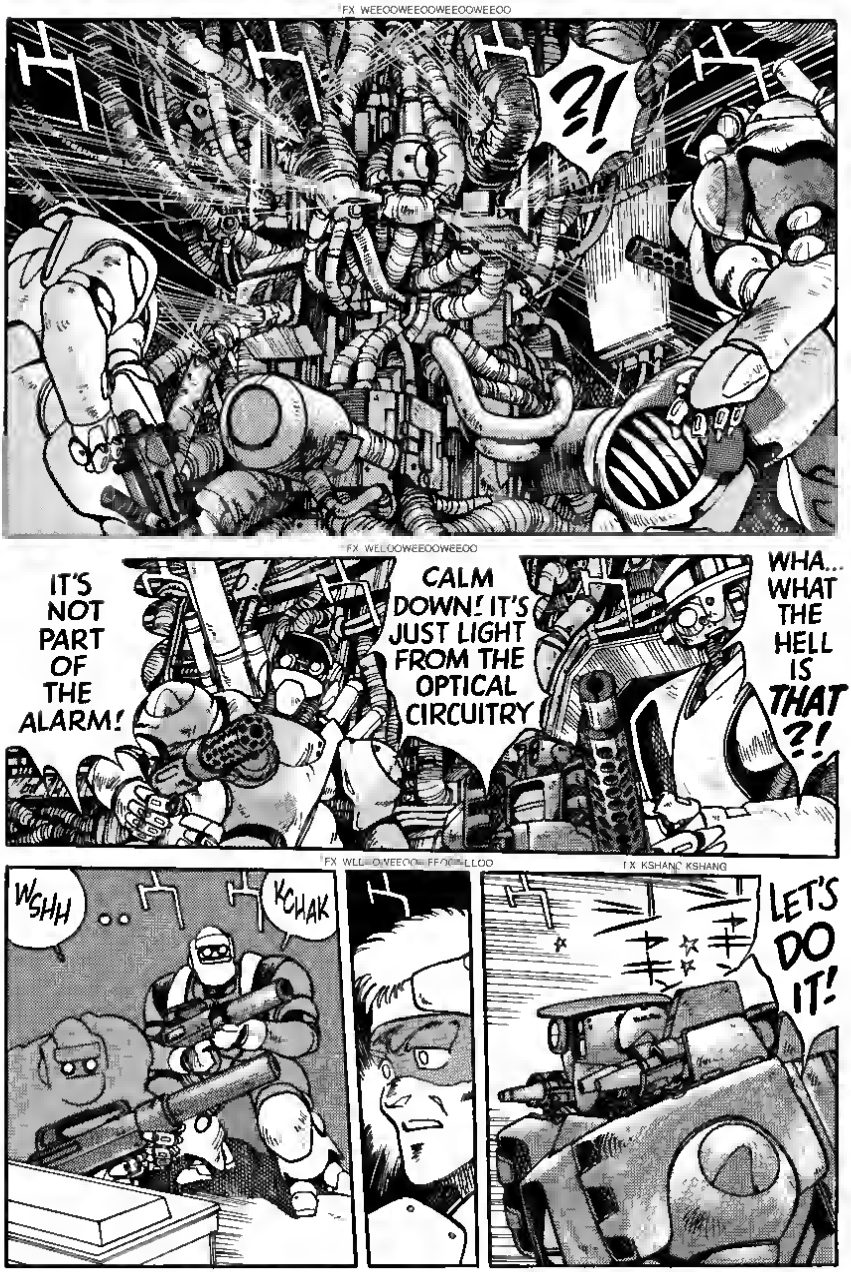
AND CALL ATHENA...
YES, I KNOW-- GET HER UP. THANKS.
YES. RIGHT AWAY MAKE IT FAST.
IS THAT YOU, SUE-ALICE? SORRY TO WAKE YOU. ISOLATE GAIA AND BLOCKS 28 THROUGH 32. DEPLOY MY STRIKE UNIT TO SOUTHGATE 4 IN BLOCK 29.
WHAT THE HELL ARE THEY UP TO...?
FX BEEP
...I SHOULD'VE HAD HER SEND UP A COUPLE OF PILLOWS.
DAMN...
FX KCHAK
FX KLAK
MAGNETIC AUTO CENTE


FX: KSSH
FX: KLAK KLAK

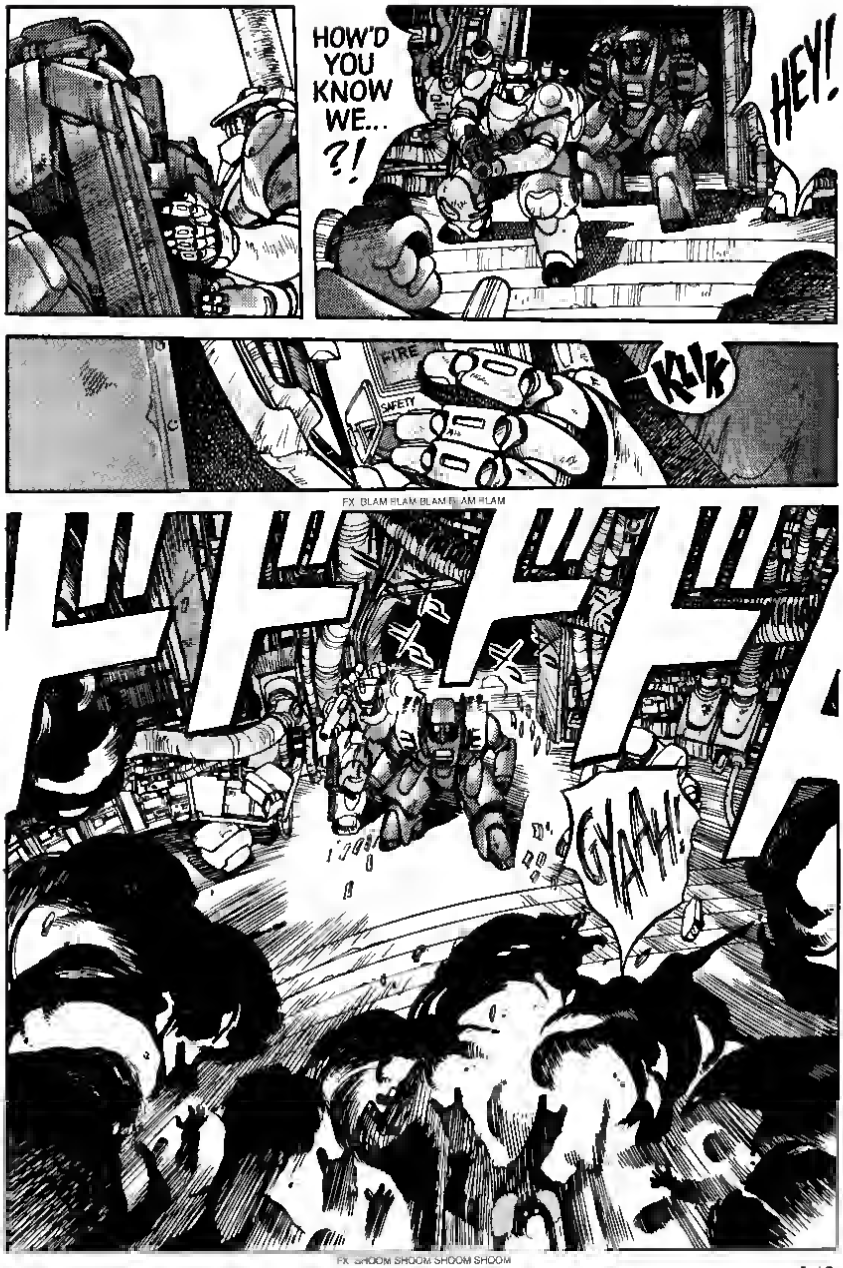

SHH
FX CRASH
FX WHMP
WHA..
?!
*FX MMMM MMMM MMMM


FX: MMM... MMM MMM
IT'S COMPLETELY UNPROTECTED! I CAN'T TELL THE MAIN UNIT FROM THE SUBSYSTEMS!
IS... IS THIS THE CPU*?!
FX: SPAK SPAK SPAK SPAK
FX: BRTTTT
WHA-?!

*CPU: Central Processing Unit. The brain of a computer, consisting of main memory, a controller, and a processor.

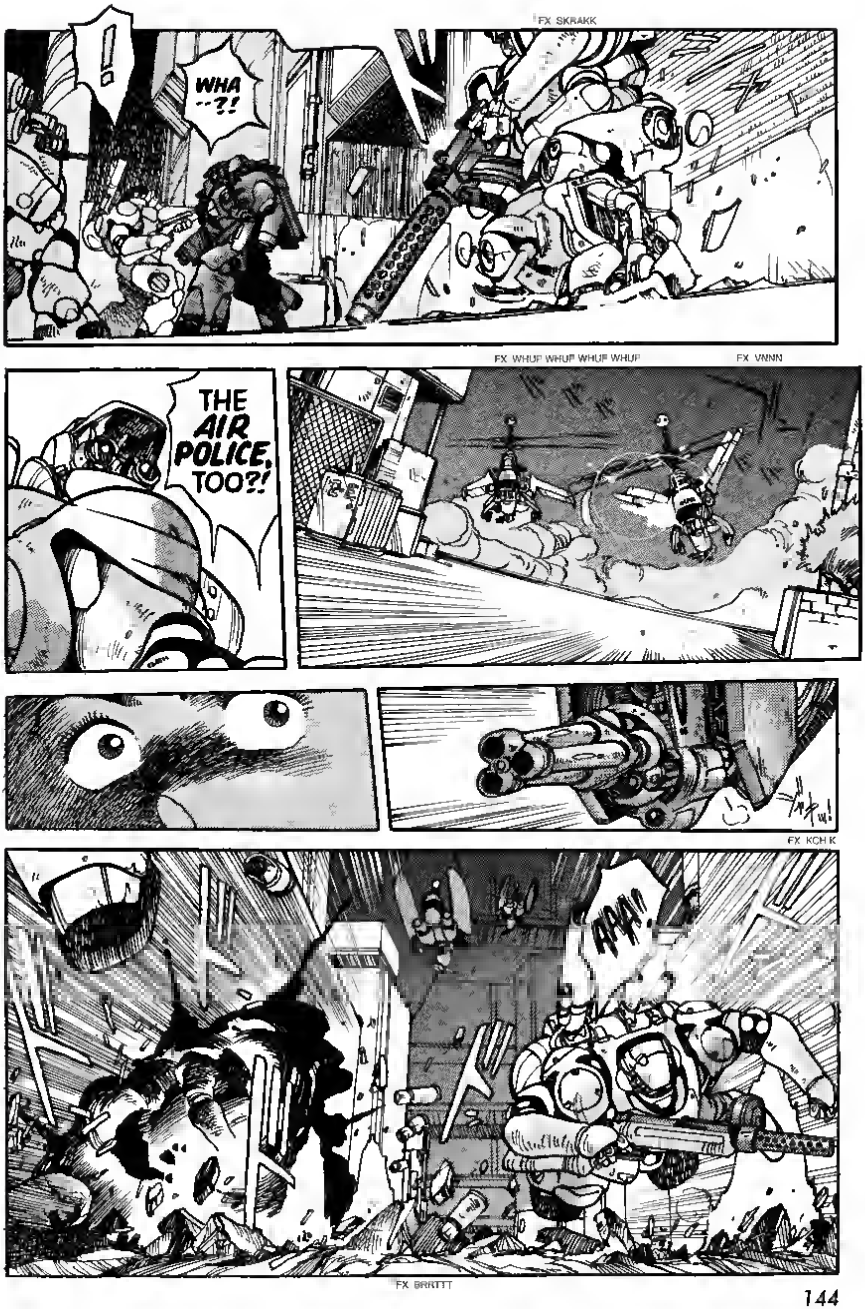

FX WEEOOWEEOOWEEOOWEEOO
?!
FX WEEOOWEEOOWEEOO
IT'S NOT PART OF THE ALARM!
CALM DOWN! IT'S JUST LIGHT FROM THE OPTICAL CIRCUITRY
WHA... WHAT THE HELL IS THAT?!
FX WEEOOWEEOOFFOOLLOO
WSHH
KCHAK
FX KSHANG KSHANG
LET'S DO IT!

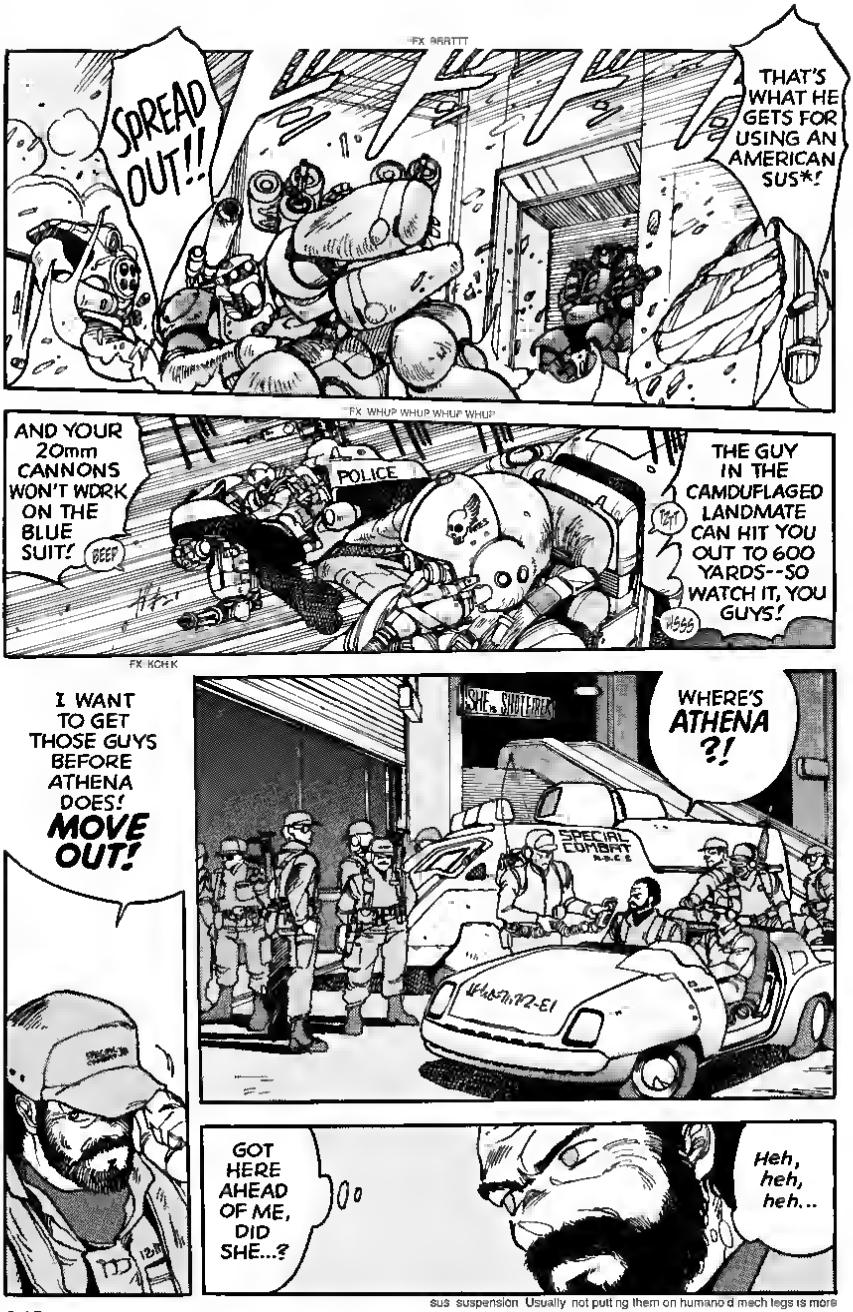
FX CHAK
FX SHFF
FX WEEOOWEEOO
CHF CHF
CHAK
--POLICE ?!
PO--
!
COOPERATE AND YOU'LL GET A FAIR BREAK. OTHERWISE ...
POLICE
SHUT DOWN YOUR ARMOR AND COME OUT!


HOW'D YOU KNOW WE... ?!
HEY!
FIRE
SAFETY
KLIK
FX: BLAM BLAM BLAM BLAM BLAM
GYAAH!
FX: SHOOM SHOOM SHOOM SHOOM

*specs: specification documents
FORGET IT! JUST CLOSE THE GATES! DON'T LET THEM GET AWAY!
THE SPEC* BANK!
POLICE
FX: BLAM BLAM
FX: BLAM BLAM BLAM
LOOKS GREAT!
IDIOT!
*FX: ZHNN ZHNN
WE STILL HAVE THE CORE CHIPS AND THE ARCHITECT!* DON'T WORRY ABOUT DAMAGE-- GET THEM!!

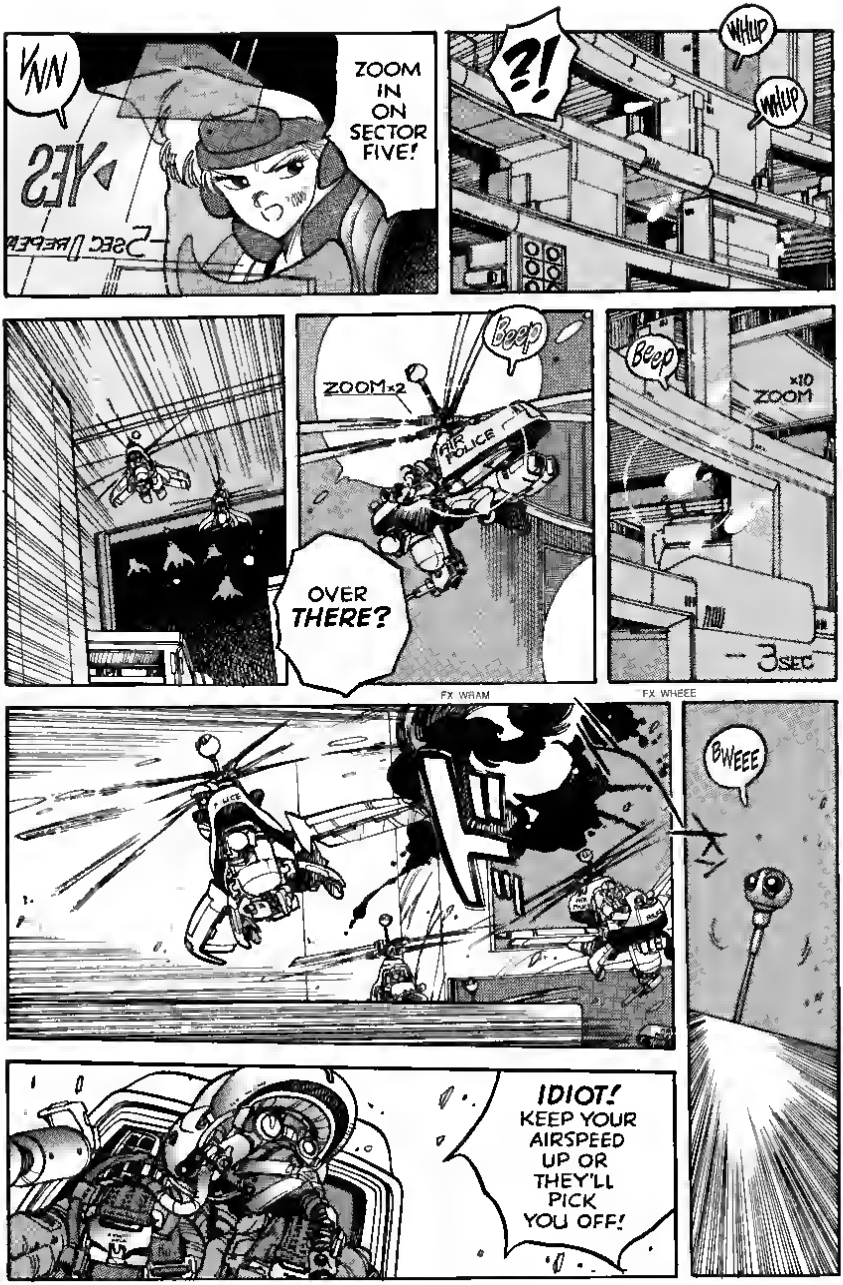
*architect: systems planning technician: someone who considers machine behavior methodology


FX: SKRAKK
!
WHA--?!
FX: WHUP WHUP WHUP WHUP
FX: VNNN
THE AIR POLICE, TOO?!
FX: KCH K
APA!!
FX: BRRTTT


FX: BRRTTT
SPREAD OUT!!
THAT'S WHAT HE GETS FOR USING AN AMERICAN SUS*!
FX: WHUP WHUP WHUP WHUP
AND YOUR 20mm CANNONS WON'T WORK ON THE BLUE SUIT!
BEEP
POLICE
THE GUY IN THE CAMOUFLAGED LANDMATE CAN HIT YOU OUT TO 600 YARDS--SO WATCH IT, YOU GUYS!
TSH
HSSS
FX: KCHK
I WANT TO GET THOSE GUYS BEFORE ATHENA DOES! MOVE OUT!
WHERE'S ATHENA ?!
SHE is SHUTTERED
SPECIAL COMBAT
GOT HERE AHEAD OF ME, DID SHE...?
Heh, heh, heh...

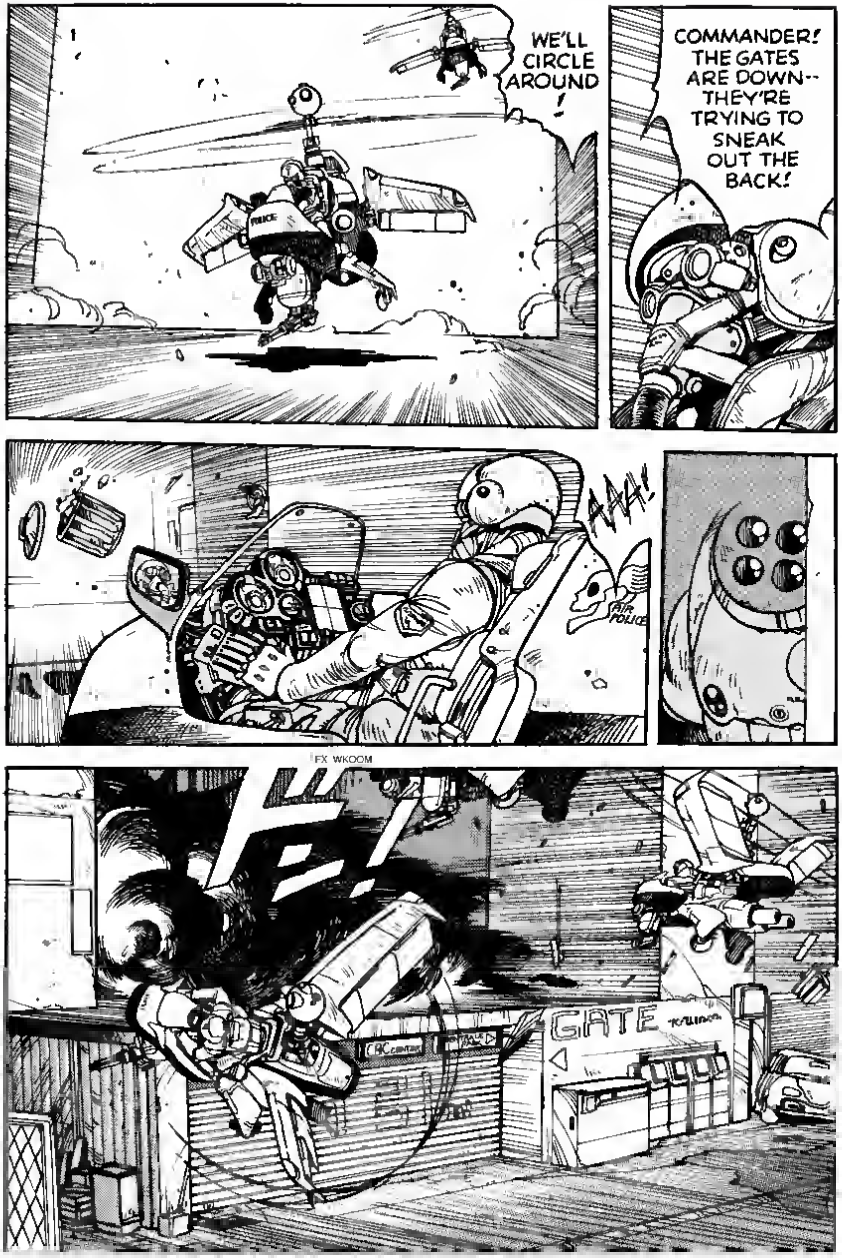
sus: suspension. Usually not putting them on humanoid mech legs is more natural and stable

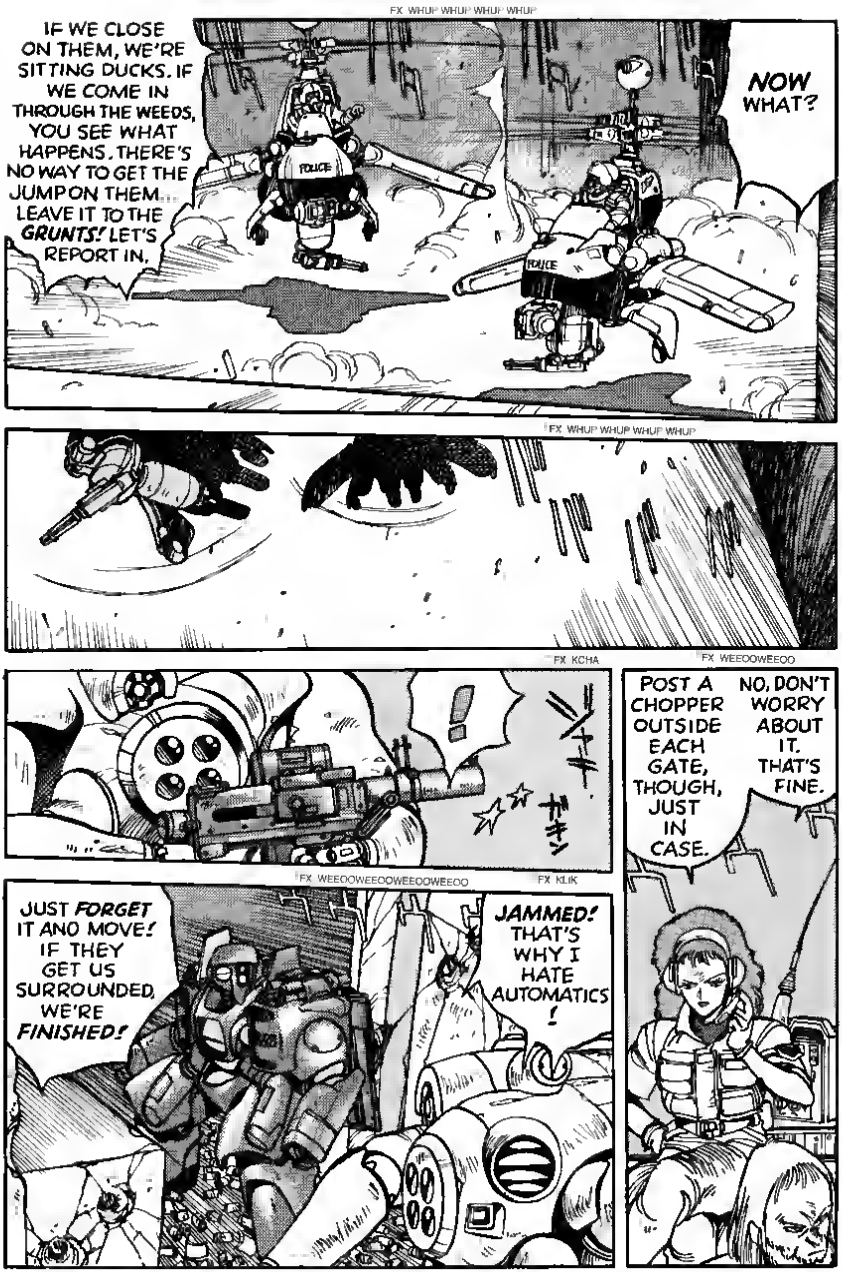
FX WHOM
ぼぃん
GET OUT OF THE WAY!
YAHH!
FX SKREE
THEY JUST WENT STRAIGHT IN...?
STILL WARM... THESE GUYS AREN'T TRAINED.
AND THAT'S THEIR TARGET.

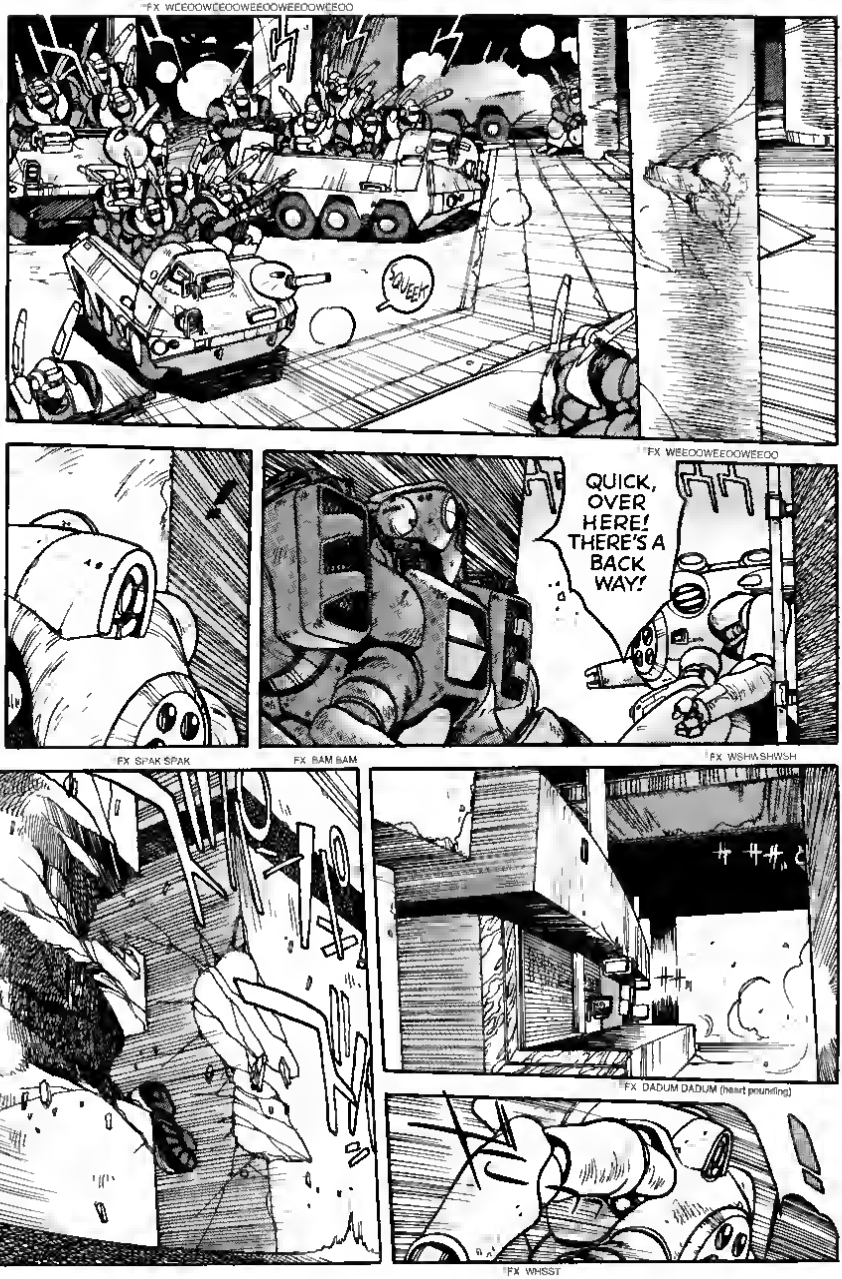

ZOOM IN ON SECTOR FIVE!
?!
WHUP
WHUP
Beep
ZOOM×2
AIR POLICE
OVER THERE?
Beep
×10 ZOOM
3SEC
FX WHAM
FX WHEEE
BWEEE
IDIOT! KEEP YOUR AIRSPEED UP OR THEY'LL PICK YOU OFF!

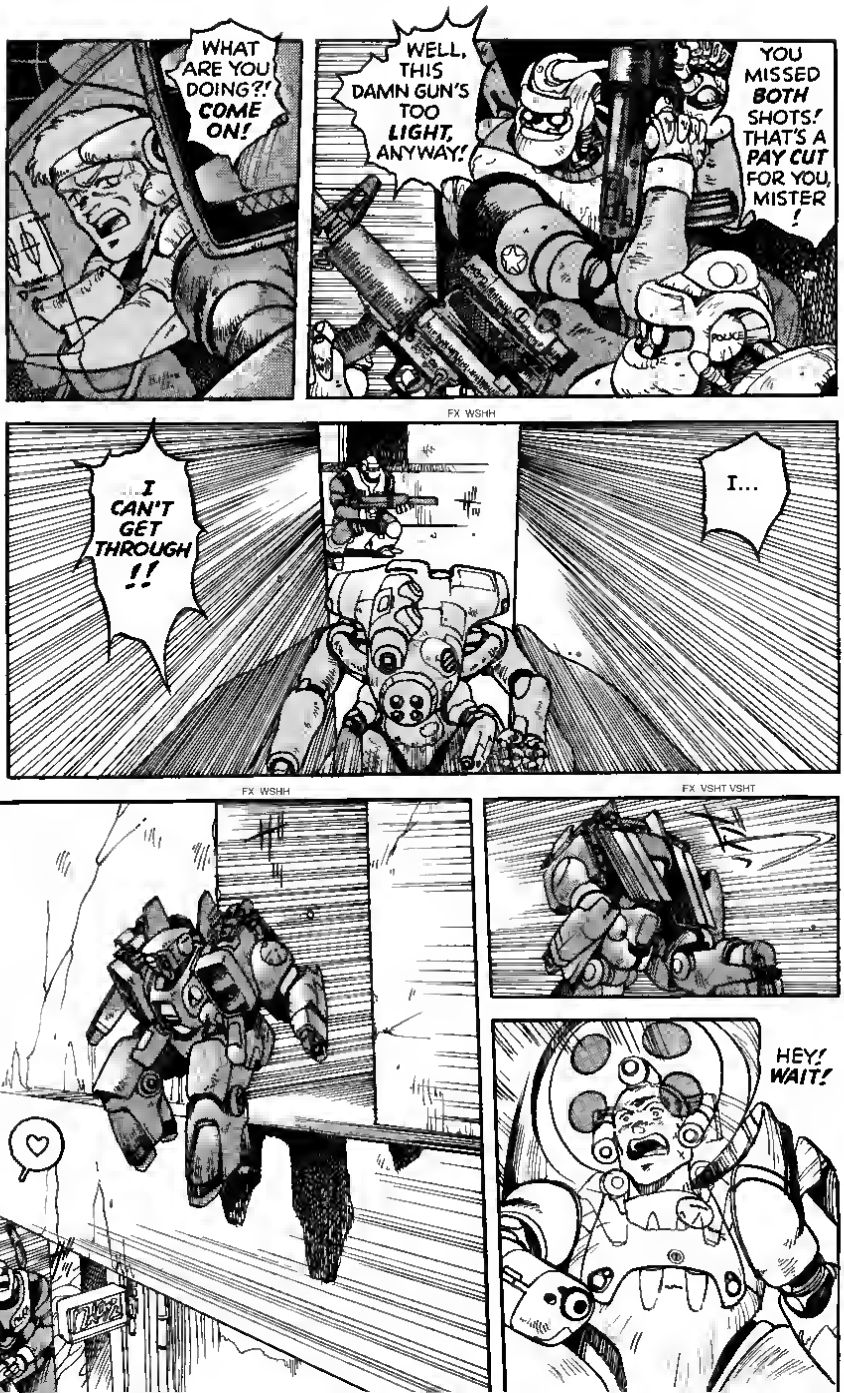
FX: WHUP WHUP WHUP
THEIR COUNTER-FIRE'S WEAKENING!
THEY'RE TRYING TO AVOID ENGAGING US--IT'S LIMITING THEIR MOVEMENTS.
IT'D BE EASY TO TAKE THEM OUT WITH OUR FIREPOWER, BUT WE NEED A COUPLE OF THEM ALIVE. TRACK THEM DOWN AND GET THEM!
THEY'RE RUNNING OUT OF STEAM!
GOOD. KEEP UP THE PRESSURE
YES, SIR!!
POLICE
AS FOR THE ONE IN THE CITY CAMO AND THE CYCLOPS... WASTE THEM!
HIT ANY UHMS* UNITS FROM ABOVE AND BELOW, AND DON'T GO HAND-TO-HAND WITH THAT BLUE BASTARD-- GOT THAT ?!

*UHMS: Under-Head Mount Sensors—a Landmate with its sensor pack mounted under the head

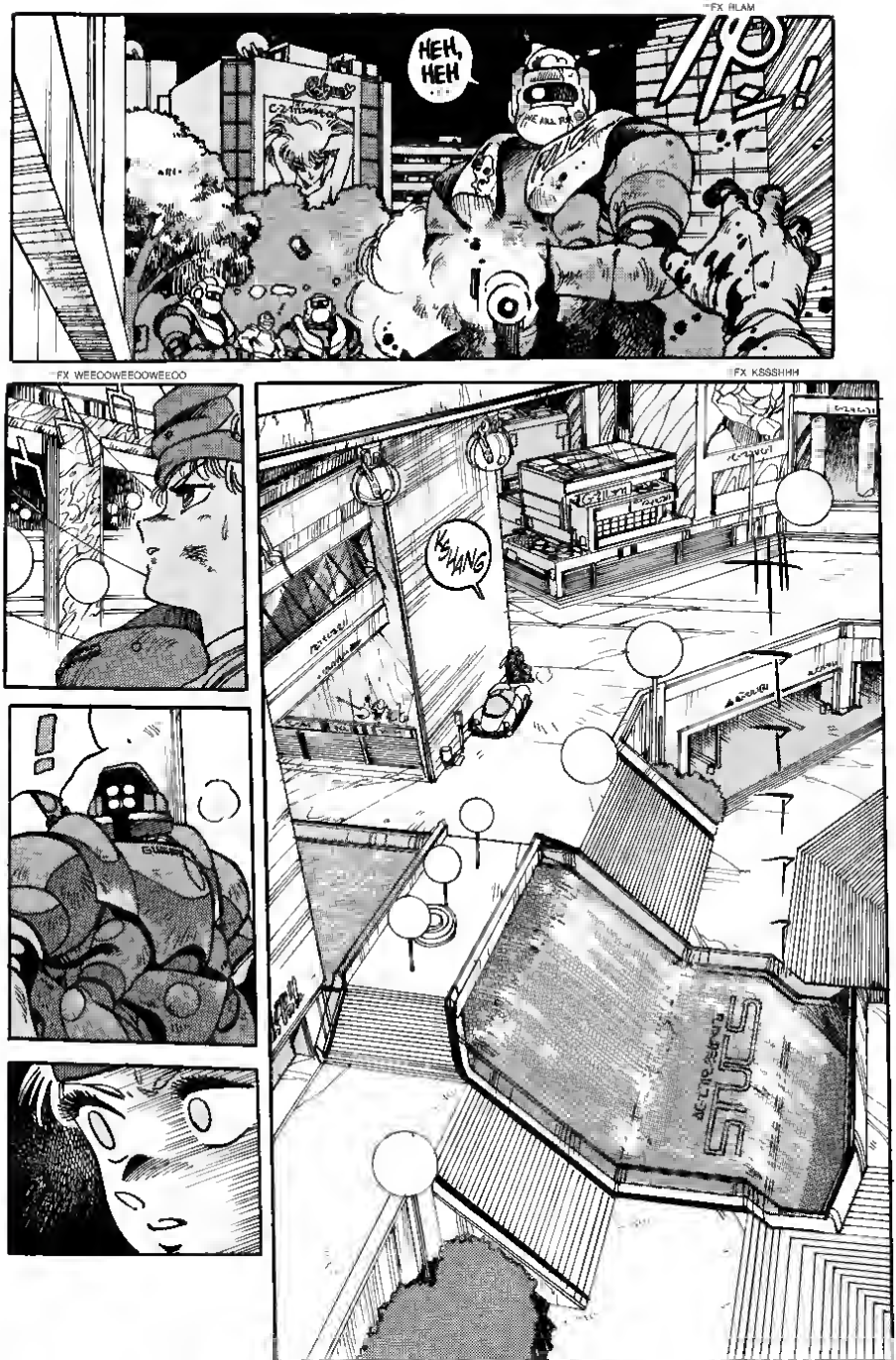

WE'LL CIRCLE AROUND!
POLICE
COMMANDER! THE GATES ARE DOWN-- THEY'RE TRYING TO SNEAK OUT THE BACK!
AAH!
AIR POLICE
FX WKOOM
F!
GATE


FX WHUP WHUP WHUP WHUP
IF WE CLOSE ON THEM, WE'RE SITTING DUCKS. IF WE COME IN THROUGH THE WEEDS, YOU SEE WHAT HAPPENS. THERE'S NO WAY TO GET THE JUMP ON THEM... LEAVE IT TO THE GRUNTS! LET'S REPORT IN.
POLICE
POLICE
NOW WHAT?
FX WHUP WHUP WHUP WHUP
FX KCHA
FX WEEOOWEEOO
POST A CHOPPER OUTSIDE EACH GATE, THOUGH, JUST IN CASE.
NO, DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT. THAT'S FINE.
FX WEEOOWEEOOWEEOOWEEOO
FX KLIK
JUST FORGET IT AND MOVE! IF THEY GET US SURROUNDED, WE'RE FINISHED!
JAMMED! THAT'S WHY I HATE AUTOMATICS!

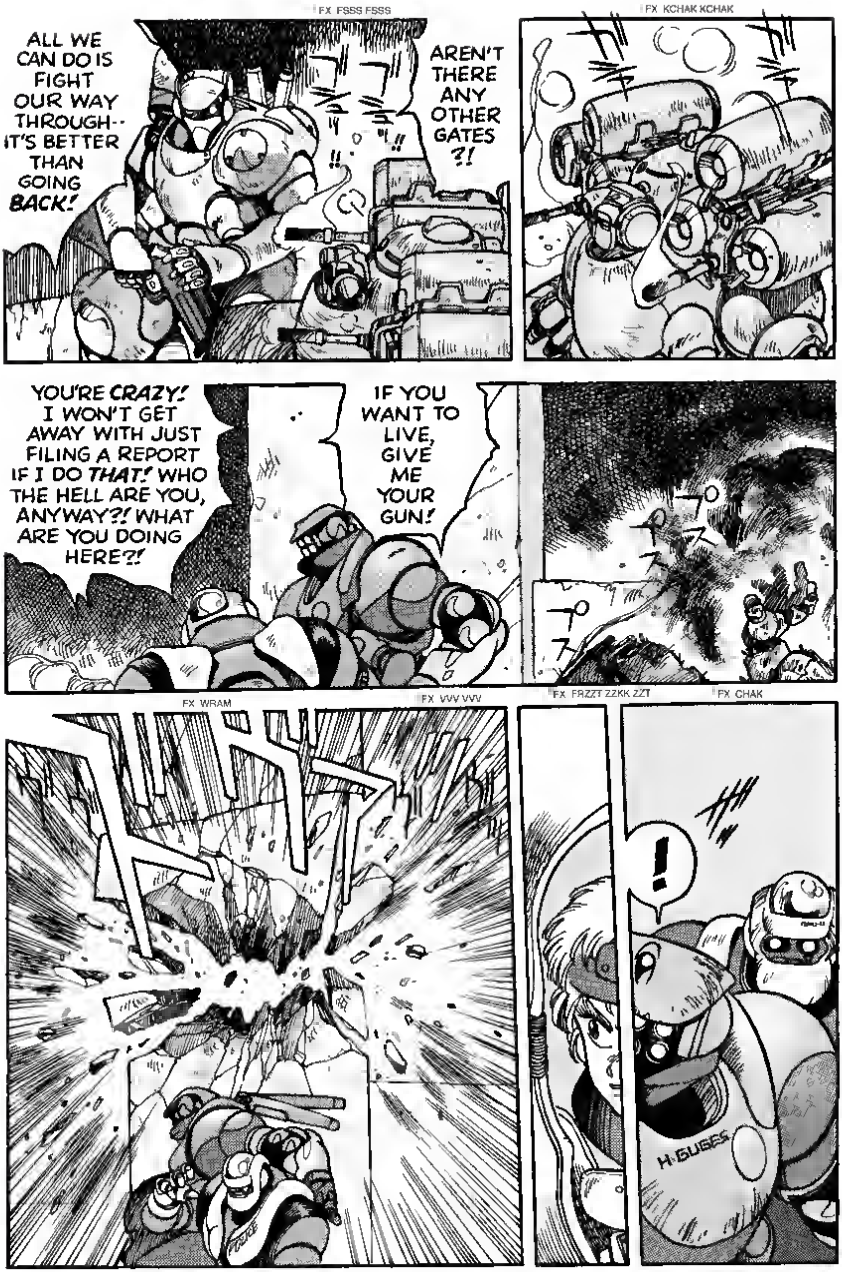

FX WEEOOWEEOOWEEOOWEEOOWEEOO
SQUEEK
FX WEEOOWEEOOWEEOO
QUICK, OVER HERE! THERE'S A BACK WAY!
FX SPAK SPAK
FX BAM BAM
FX WSHWSHWSH
FX DADUM DADUM (heart pounding)
FX WHSST


WHAT ARE YOU DOING?! COME ON!
WELL, THIS DAMN GUN'S TOO LIGHT, ANYWAY!
YOU MISSED BOTH SHOTS! THAT'S A PAY CUT FOR YOU, MISTER!
POLICE
FX WSHH
I CAN'T GET THROUGH!!
I...
FX WSHH
FX VSHT VSHT
HEY! WAIT!

FX: SLAM SLAM
FX: WHKOOM
HEH, HEH
POP THE SUIT! NOW!
HOLD IT RIGHT THERE!
H... HELP ME...
FX: KSHANG
HNNG!

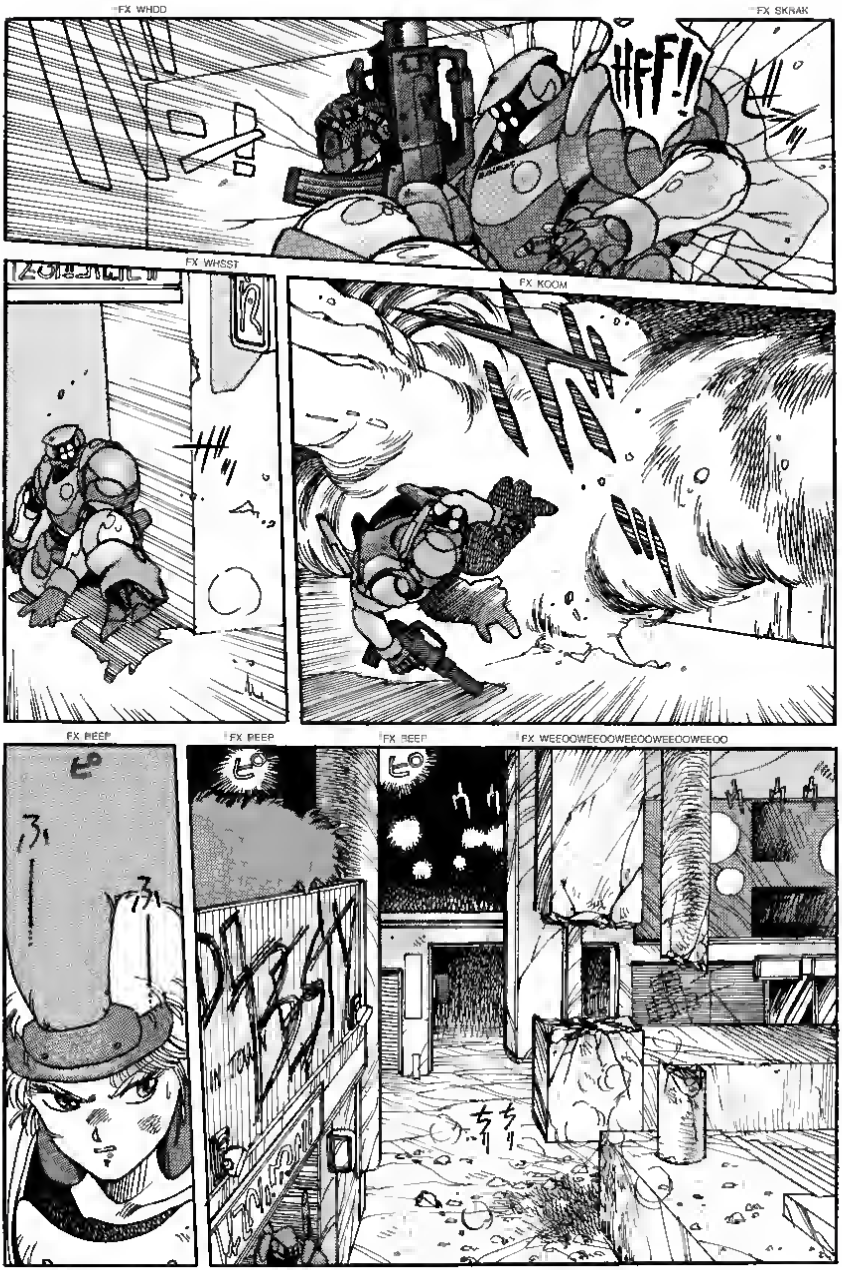

FX SLAM
HEH, HEH
FX WEEOOWEEOOWEEOO
FX KSSSHHH
KSHANG

FX: WSHH
HEY!
FX: DADUM DADUM
Beep
FX: DADUM (heart pound ng)
H. Gugese
FX: THDD
.....
FX: LUNGE
GET DOWN, YOU IDIOT!
HOLD IT!
FX: WHKOOM
GYAAA!
DAMN IT...
FX: FZZT ZZT

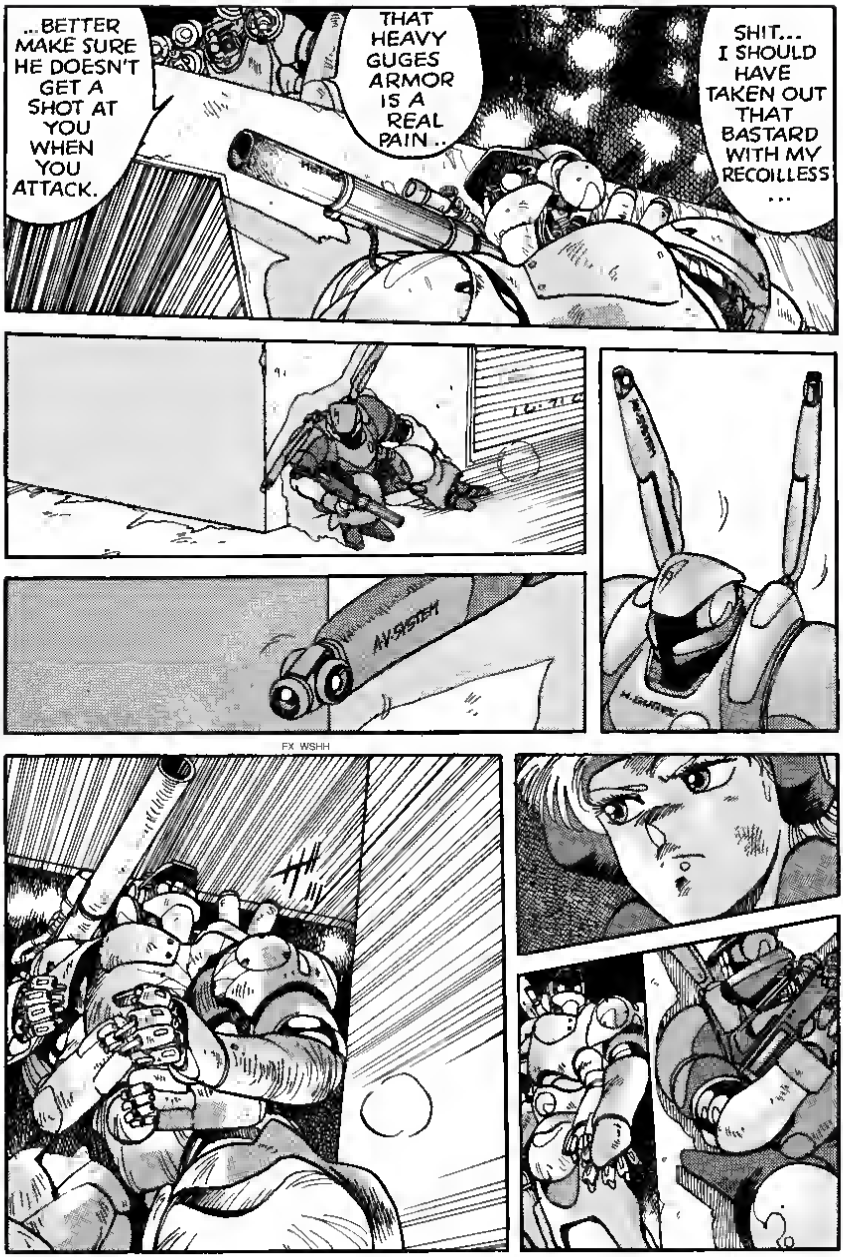

FX FSSS FSSS
ALL WE CAN DO IS FIGHT OUR WAY THROUGH-- IT'S BETTER THAN GOING BACK!
AREN'T THERE ANY OTHER GATES?!
FX KCHAK KCHAK
YOU'RE CRAZY! I WON'T GET AWAY WITH JUST FILING A REPORT IF I DO THAT! WHO THE HELL ARE YOU, ANYWAY?! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?!
IF YOU WANT TO LIVE, GIVE ME YOUR GUN!
FX WRAM
FX VVV VVV
FX FRZZT ZZKK ZZT
FX CHAK
!
H-GUSES

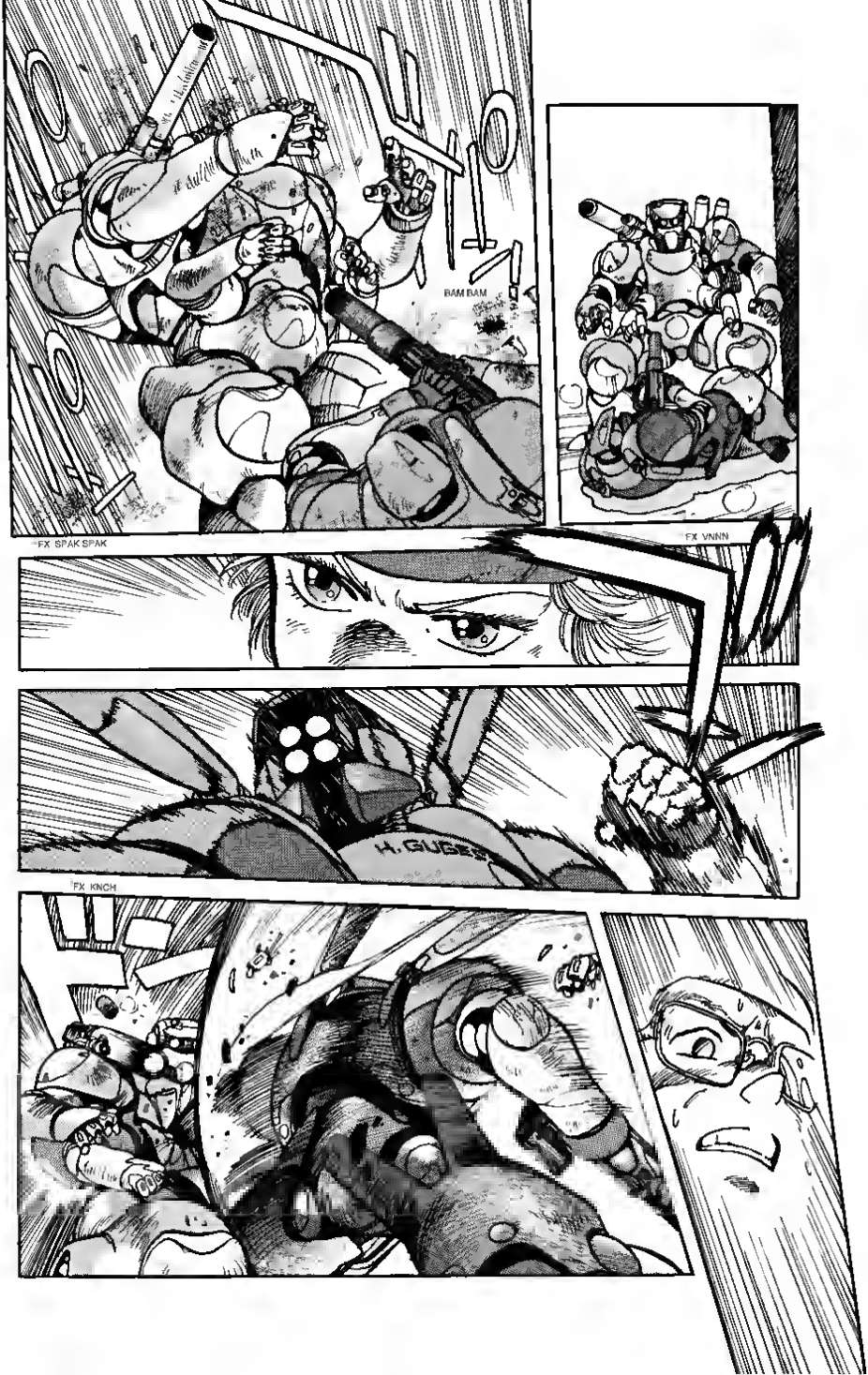
*WSHH
W-WAIT! YOU... WHAT...?
I SAID GIVE ME THE GUN! NOW!!
FX KCHAK
HEY!
FX BAM BAM BAM
FX BRTTT
*FX VUUU
WHAT THE HELL IS WITH THIS GUN?! I WAS SCORING ON HIM!
WHA?!
VSHH
FX WSHH

WHANG!
KCHING
LUNGE
FX WSHH
FX WHOK
HNNG!
WHA!!
FX KANG


FX WHOD
FX SKRAK
HFF!!
FX WHSST
FX KOOM
FX BEEP
FX BEEP
FX BEEP
FX WEEOOWEEOOWEEOOWEEOOWEEOO
FX HUFF HUFF
FX CHK CHK (debris falling)

FX: WEEOOWEEOOWEEOOWEEOOWEEOO
CADRE
"ALWAYS KNOW HOW MUCH AMMO YOU HAVE LEFT..."
TWO...
THREE...
...FOUR ROUNDS.
Huh! THEIR ARMOR MAY BE THIN, BUT NOT THAT THIN. WHAT GOOD ARE NON-AP SHELLS LIKE THIS GOING TO BE?
FX: WEEOOWEEOOWEEOO
FX: GOK
BRIAREOS
...


...BETTER MAKE SURE HE DOESN'T GET A SHOT AT YOU WHEN YOU ATTACK.
THAT HEAVY GUGES ARMOR IS A REAL PAIN..
SHIT... I SHOULD HAVE TAKEN OUT THAT BASTARD WITH MY RECOILLESS ...
AV-SYSTEM
FX WSHH

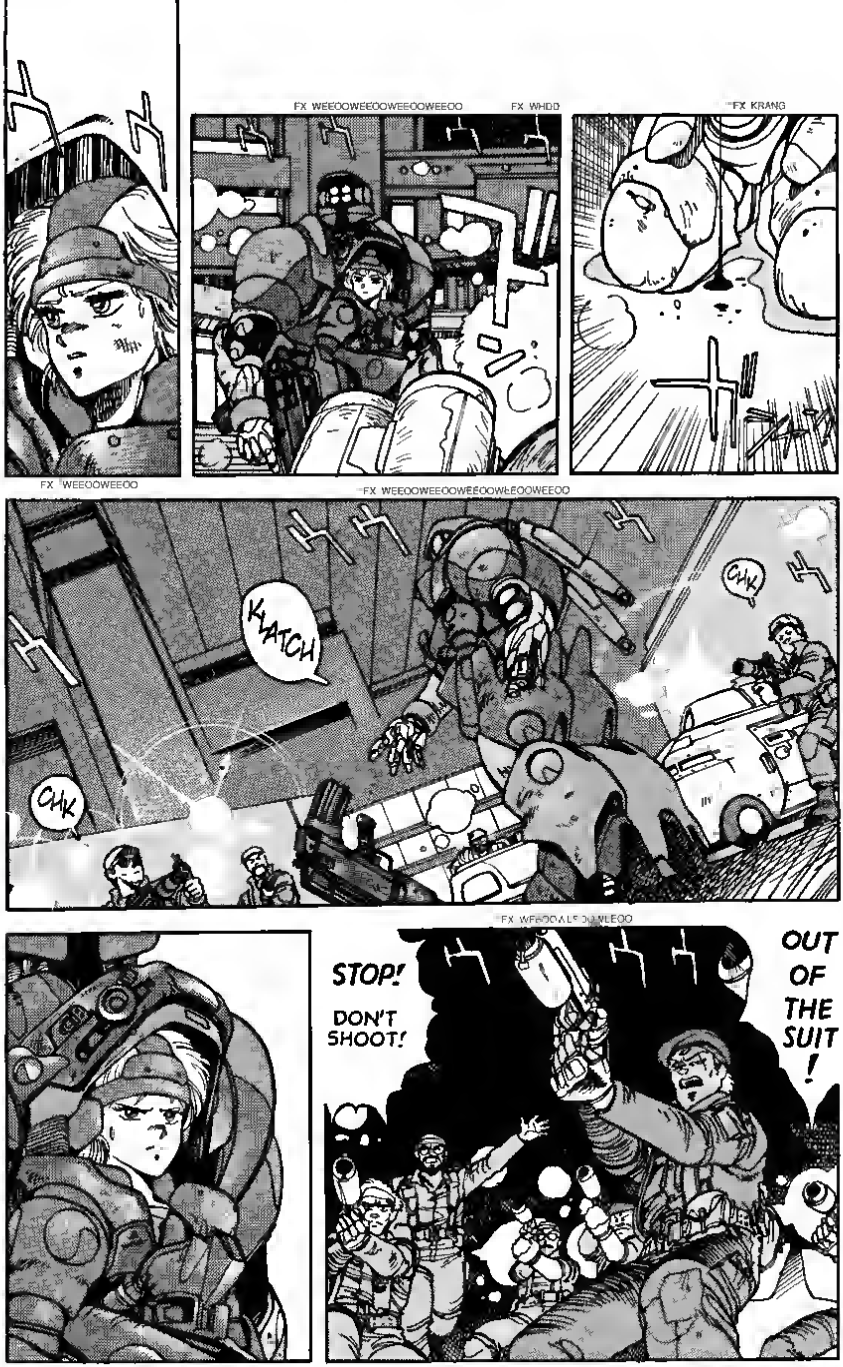

BAM BAM
FX VNNN
FX SPAK SPAK
H. GUDE
FX KNCH

!
AA...
AAA!
FX: SHIZAKK
GYAAA
FX: WHSST
FX: WSHH
FX: WHDD
FX: FZZT FZZT

FX KRAK
FX WSHH
CAN'T... GET IT.. AROUND!
ALL THAT MASS .. I CAN'T TRACK HIM!!
FX WMPP
FX GKRAK
HA!
FX KNCH

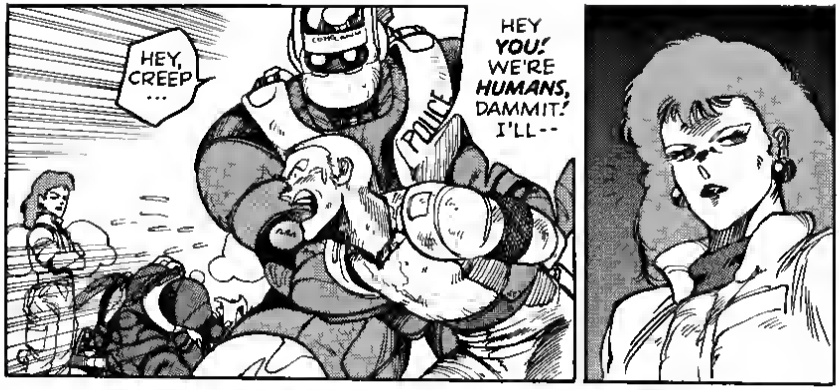
FX CHAK
FX KCHAK KCHAK
WE... WE'RE--
N-NO, WAIT!
FX KABAM

FX KSHANGG
Whew...
ドゥン！
FX WEEOOWEEOOWEEOOWEEOOWEEOOWEEOO
IF YOU'RE GOING TO USE FORCE, DON'T TALK UNTIL YOU WIN.
THAT'S WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU PLAY WITH BATTLE ARMOR ...
FX WEEOOWEEOOWEEOOWEEOO
FX WEEOOWEEOOWEEOO


FX WEEOOWEEOOWEEOOWEEOO
FX WHOO
FX KRANG
FX WEEOOWEEOO
FX WEEOOWEEOOWEEOOWEEOOWEEOO
KLATCH
CHK
CHK
STOP!
DON'T SHOOT!
OUT OF THE SUIT!

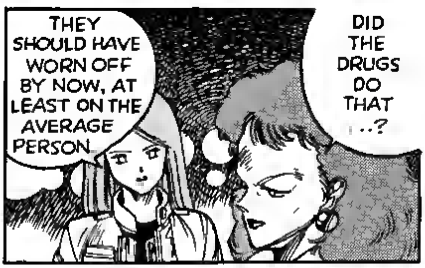
A...PUBLIC OFFICIAL IN THIS COUNTRY, TERRORISTS HAVE ZERO RIGHTS, AND DON'T YOU FORGET IT!
YOU .. WHO ARE...?
IF THEY PICK HER OFF, WE'LL NEVER GET THE WHOLE STORY.
STAKE OUT THE AREA AND GUARD THE GIRL.
FINE
NO MORE TARGET READINGS, SIR. THERE'S NO ONE OUT THERE BUT COPS.
IT'S... IT'S REALLY ALL OVER ...?
DIRECTOR... THERE'S A CALL COMING IN FROM THE COUNCIL.
W-WAIT! I NEED TO GET TO THE HOSPITAL!
BLUE SQUAD, YOU CLEAN UP THIS MESS. GOLD SQUAD, TAKE THE GIRL IN. RED, YOU--

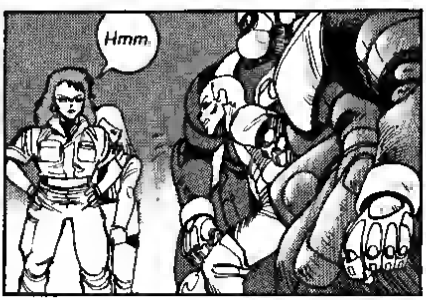
I... uh... THE TERRAIN'S REALLY BAD HERE, ALL THOSE DOWNDRAFTS ...
DON'T GIVE ME THAT CRAP!!
WHAT THE #$%&*! WERE YOU ON STATION FOR?! Huh?!
oh shit...
FORGET IT.
...err... uhh...
..EXCUSE ME, MA'AM, BUT...
THE DIRECTOR GOT BOTH OF THEM?!
WHAT!!
POLICE
FX WHUP WHUP WHUP WHUP
A LAWYER! I DEMAND A LAWYER!
Sigh
FX WHUP WHUP WHUP WHUP WHUP WHUP WHUP

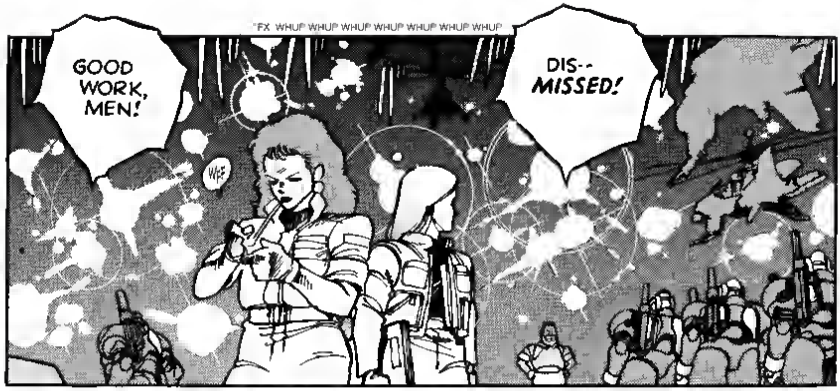


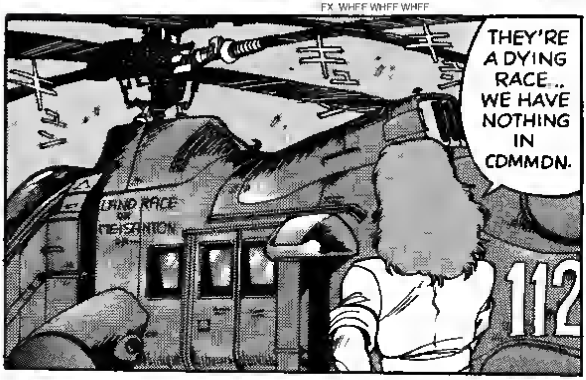
FX WHAK WHAK WHAK

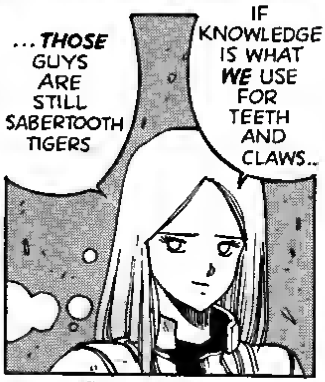
FX WHDD

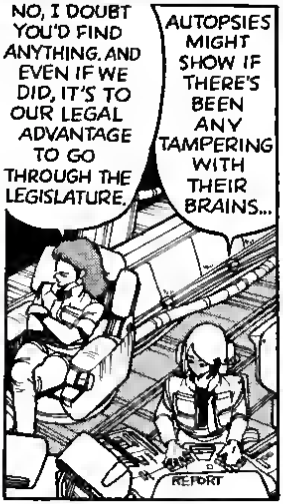


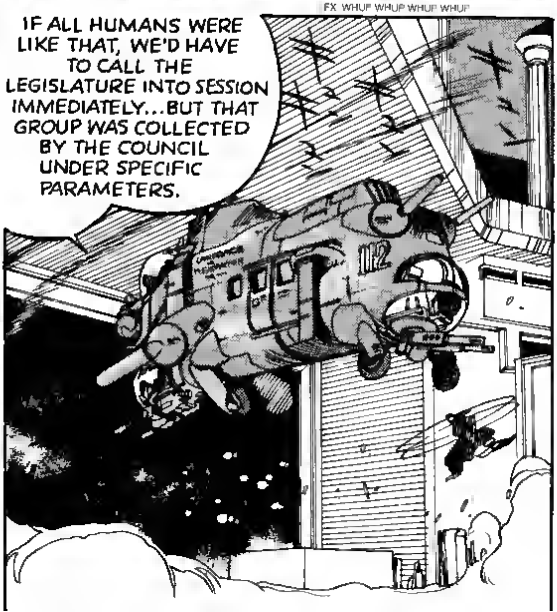



FX: WHUP WHUP WHUP WHUP WHUP WHUP WHUP
GOOD WORK, MEN!
WHF
DIS--MISSED!


FX: WHFF WHFF WHFF
THEY'RE A DYING RACE... WE HAVE NOTHING IN COMMON.
112


...THOSE GUYS ARE STILL SABERTOOTH TIGERS
IF KNOWLEDGE IS WHAT WE USE FOR TEETH AND CLAWS..

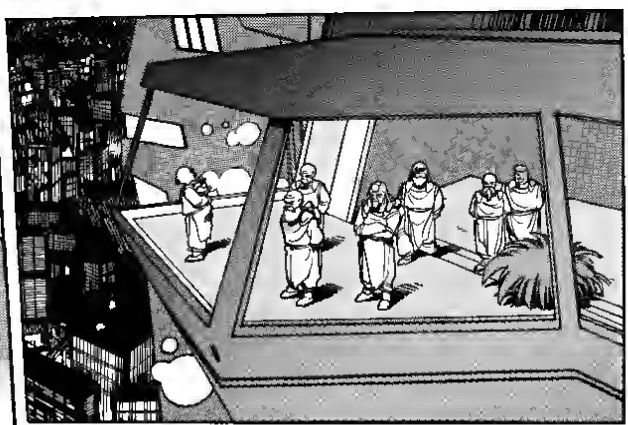

NO, I DOUBT YOU'D FIND ANYTHING. AND EVEN IF WE DID, IT'S TO OUR LEGAL ADVANTAGE TO GO THROUGH THE LEGISLATURE.
AUTOPSIES MIGHT SHOW IF THERE'S BEEN ANY TAMPERING WITH THEIR BRAINS...
REPORT

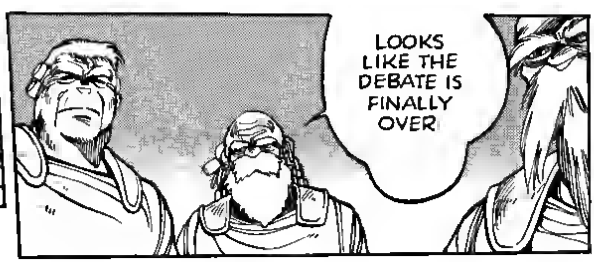

FX: WHUP WHUP WHUP WHUP
IF ALL HUMANS WERE LIKE THAT, WE'D HAVE TO CALL THE LEGISLATURE INTO SESSION IMMEDIATELY...BUT THAT GROUP WAS COLLECTED BY THE COUNCIL UNDER SPECIFIC PARAMETERS.

BESIDES, THEY COULDN'T HAVE SMUGGLED IN *THAT* MUCH FIREPOWER. NO, I'M SURE THE COUNCIL'S BEHIND IT ALL.
NONE OF THE UNSUPERVISED COUNTRIES HAVE THOSE KINDS OF RESOURCES. THEY NEED OUR ASSISTANCE TO SURVIVE.
AT LEAST IT'S CLEAR THEY'RE GUERRILLAS. COULD IT BE SOME DEAL WITH ONE OF THE OLD SUPERPOWERS? LOOKING FOR MORE CONGENIAL MASTERS...?

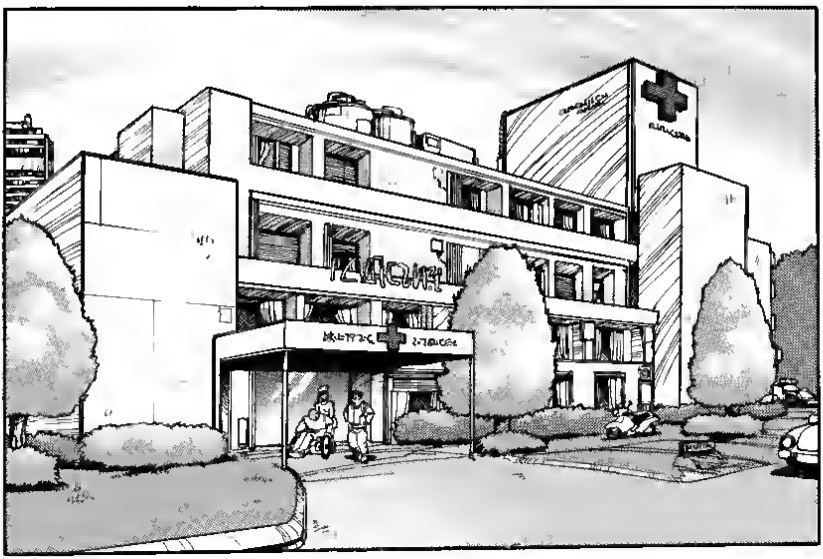
THE REAL FIGHT COMES LATER.
AT LEAST NOW WE'LL BE ALLOWED TO PUT THOSE GUINEA PIGS UNDER SURVEILLANCE.

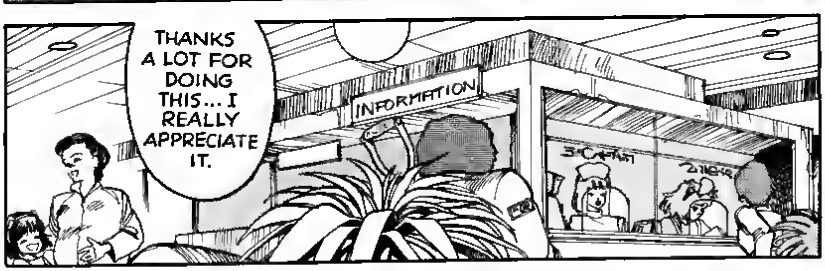
THAT INCIDENT... WAS IT ATHENA'S WORK?
I IMAGINE SHE WAS CURIOUS ABOUT THEIR SUBCONSCIOUS, TOO. FOR HER OWN REASONS.



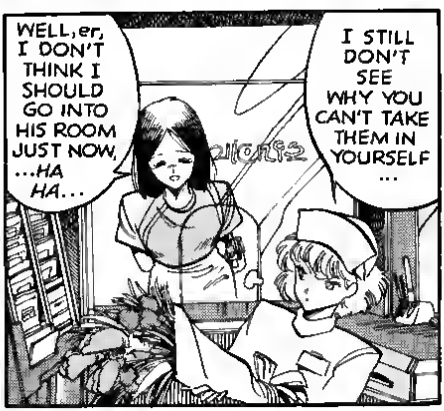

LOOKS LIKE THE DEBATE IS FINALLY OVER.

THE INCIDENT HAS GIVEN US ANSWERS, AS WELL. IT'S ANOTHER WEAPON.
WELL, IT HARDLY MATTERS.
COULD HAVE BEEN ANY SORT OF STIMULANT... PERHAPS AUTO-SUGGESTION.
DID SHE USE A WAR DRUG?
FROM THE WAY THINGS WENT TODAY, WE'LL HAVE TO EXPECT A STRONG BACKLASH FROM AEGIS.
WE'RE THEIR CHILDREN, MORE LIKE IT, AND WE'RE PLANNING TO MURDER THEM IN THEIR SLEEP.
I MUST SAY, I FEEL AS IF I'VE SENT MY ONLY CHILD OFF ON A LONG JOURNEY. IMAGINE --TEARING DOWN THE BARRIERS BETWEEN US AND THE HUMANS..
AND IT WOULD SEEM THERE ARE RATHER FEWER OF THEM, NOW..
WE'LL REALLY NEED HITOMI'S PEOPLE THEN--
CONFOUND IT! NOT UNTIL THEY DELIVER MY PARTS FIRST!
EXCUSE ME, SIR, BUT ALL THE CHIP MAKERS ARE CALLING IN QUOTATIONS ON THE REPLACEMENT PARTS FOR GAIA...



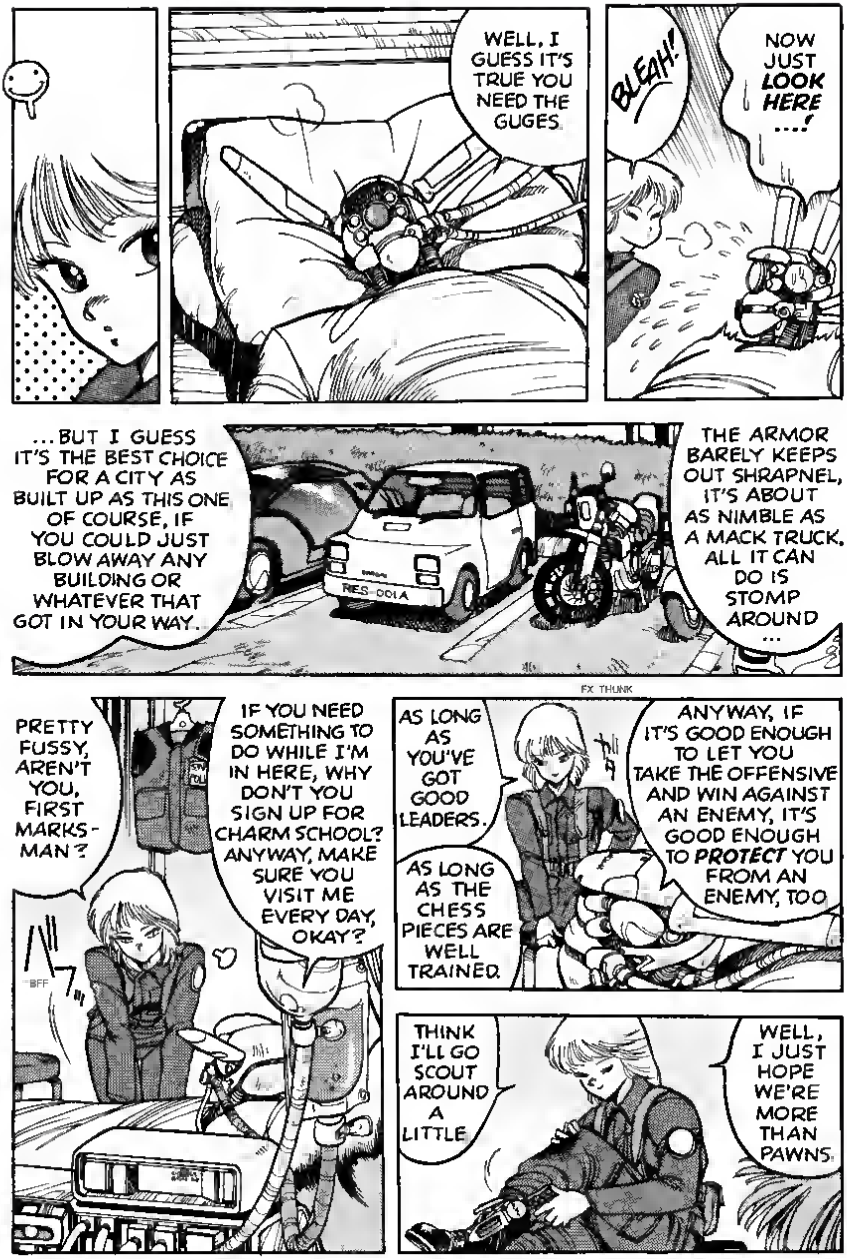

THANKS A LOT FOR DOING THIS... I REALLY APPRECIATE IT.
INFORMATION

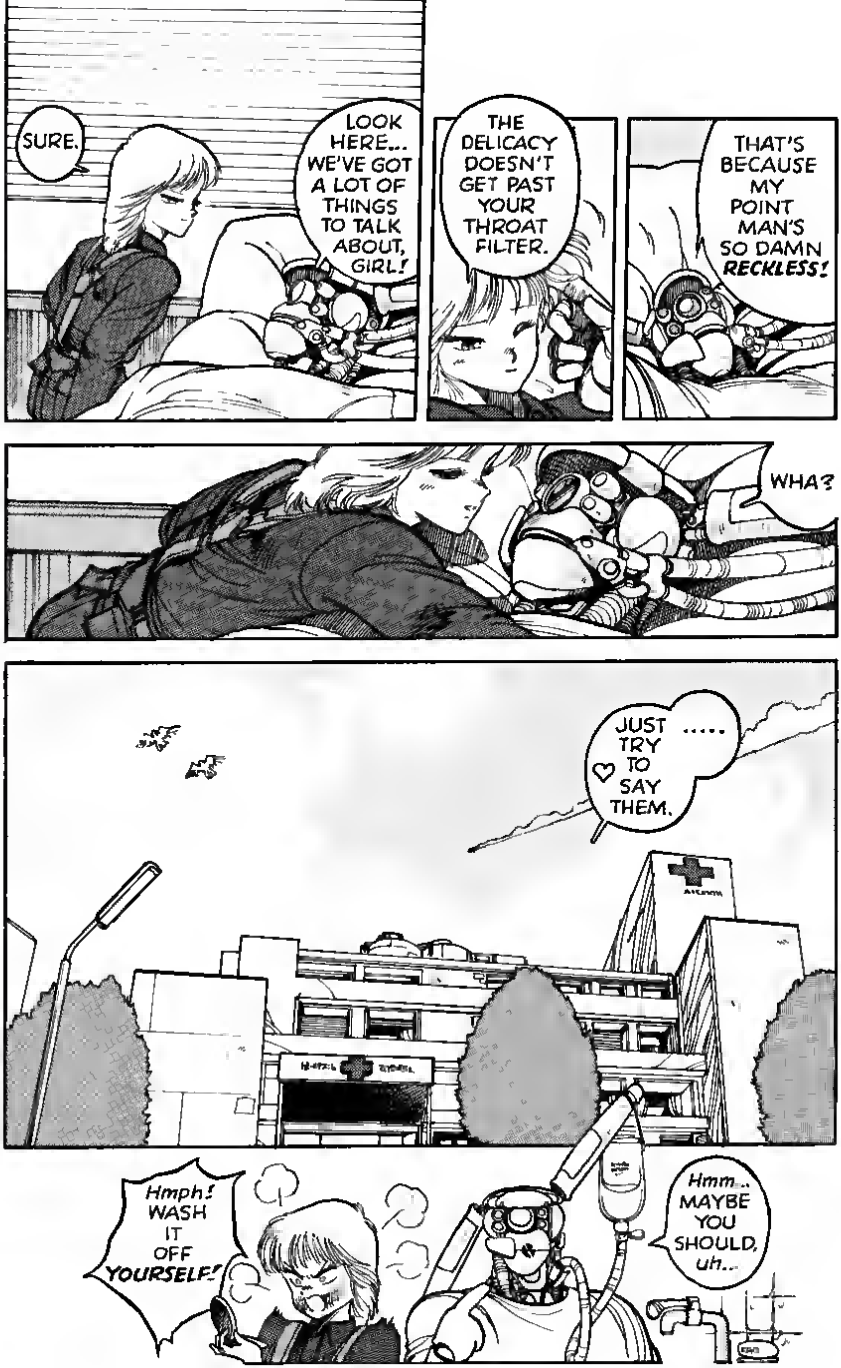
Hm? Oh, YES... YOU'RE THAT GIRL...
Oh, DOCTOR! THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR YOUR HELP THE OTHER DAY!

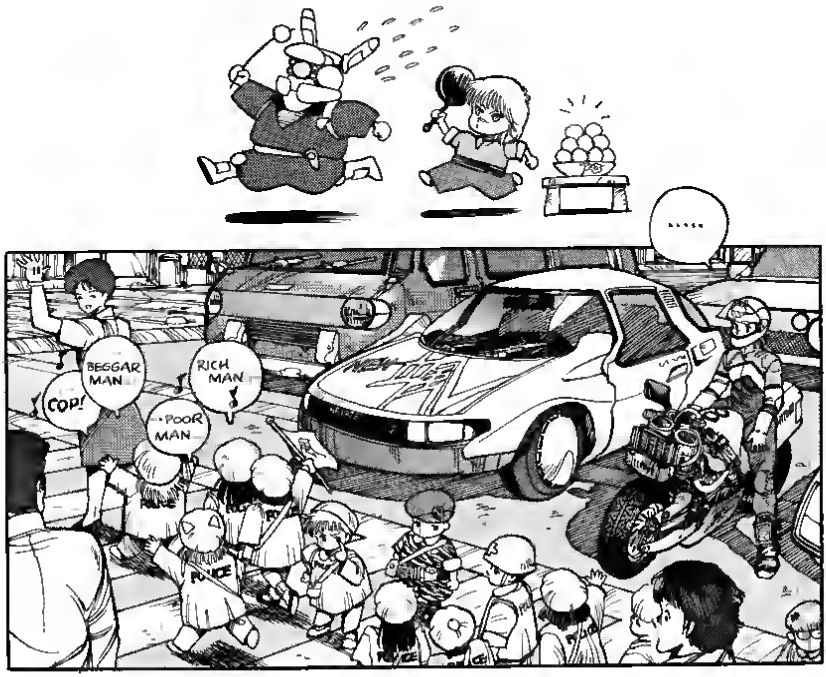

WELL, er, I DON'T THINK I SHOULD GO INTO HIS ROOM JUST NOW, ...HA HA...
I STILL DON'T SEE WHY YOU CAN'T TAKE THEM IN YOURSELF ...

Hmph! YDUNG FOLK TODAY GOT NO SENSE OF HUMOR!
WHY, DOCTOR! WHATEVER HAPPENED TO YOUR FACE..?
FX SMAK
I'LL BE GLAD TO TAKE IT OUT IN TRADE, MY PRETTY --
Oh.. Oh, REALLY ...? WELL, uh, THANKS ...
Hmph! THAT WAS ONE HELL OF AN OPERATION, LET ME TELL YOU!
WHAT'S THAT?
WELL, THAT'LL TEACH YOU TO HANG AROUND WITHOUT A GUN
GUESS I'M NOT CUT OUT TO BE A COP... I GET SHOT, I GET--
I SHOULD HAVE CHECKED OUT THE SITUATION HERE MORE THOROUGHLY..

OH, NOT THAT AGAIN...
BUT THANKS TO THAT, YOU'RE SMACK DAB IN THE MIDDLE OF THEIR POWER STRUGGLES.
...THEY JUST MIGHT HAVE SHOT ME FULL OF DRUGS. I SURE WOULDN'T HAVE GOTTEN OFF THIS EASILY.
YOU KNOW, IF IT HADN'T BEEN FOR HITOMI'S CALL AND THE AUTHORITY OF THE COUNCIL...
FX: WMPF (sitting on bed)
THE GUGES BILL, YOU MEAN--IT NEEDS A DIAGNOSTIC, REPAIRS, AND A COMPLETE OVERHAUL. A FEW PLACES NEED IMPROVEMENT, TOO SO I'VE ORDERED NEW PARTS.
YARGH!
YEAH, I JUST MIGHT DO THAT. NOT UNTIL I'VE WORKED OFF THE HOSPITAL BILL, THOUGH.
YOU NEVER GIVE UP, DO YOU? I DON'T SUPPOSE YOU'RE PLANNING TO MOVE ON AND LEAVE ME HERE ALONE?
FX: SIGH
WAIT! YES! YES!
THAT WAS A JOKE, RIGHT? ABOUT LEAVING ME?
I JUST KEEP STUMBLING DEEPER INTO THE LABYRINTH


WELL, I GUESS IT'S TRUE YOU NEED THE GUGES.
BLEAH!
NOW JUST LOOK HERE ...!
...BUT I GUESS IT'S THE BEST CHOICE FOR A CITY AS BUILT UP AS THIS ONE OF COURSE, IF YOU COULD JUST BLOW AWAY ANY BUILDING OR WHATEVER THAT GOT IN YOUR WAY.
RES-001A
THE ARMOR BARELY KEEPS OUT SHRAPNEL, IT'S ABOUT AS NIMBLE AS A MACK TRUCK. ALL IT CAN DO IS STOMP AROUND ...
FX: THUNK
PRETTY FUSSY, AREN'T YOU, FIRST MARKSMAN?
IF YOU NEED SOMETHING TO DO WHILE I'M IN HERE, WHY DON'T YOU SIGN UP FOR CHARM SCHOOL? ANYWAY, MAKE SURE YOU VISIT ME EVERY DAY, OKAY?
BFF
AS LONG AS YOU'VE GOT GOOD LEADERS.
AS LONG AS THE CHESS PIECES ARE WELL TRAINED.
ANYWAY, IF IT'S GOOD ENOUGH TO LET YOU TAKE THE OFFENSIVE AND WIN AGAINST AN ENEMY, IT'S GOOD ENOUGH TO PROTECT YOU FROM AN ENEMY, TOO.
THINK I'LL GO SCOUT AROUND A LITTLE.
WELL, I JUST HOPE WE'RE MORE THAN PAWNS.


SURE.
LOOK HERE... WE'VE GOT A LOT OF THINGS TO TALK ABOUT, GIRL!
THE DELICACY DOESN'T GET PAST YOUR THROAT FILTER.
THAT'S BECAUSE MY POINT MAN'S SO DAMN RECKLESS!
WHA?
JUST ..... TRY TO SAY THEM.
Hmph! WASH IT OFF YOURSELF!
Hmm... MAYBE YOU SHOULD, uh...


.....
BEGGAR MAN
COP!
POOR MAN
RICH MAN
POLICE

SKREE
VRRR
HITOMI! I'M OVER HERE!
FMP
FX: BRMBRMBRM
YO!
YOU'RE IDLING TOO FAST.
HIII♪ THERE!
VRM

*CPG: co-pilot/gunner
*FX: KCHNK
IT'S AN OLD RETINAL PROJECTOR FOR A FLYING TANK *CPG.** THEY PROBABLY USED IT DURING THE DEFENSE OF TOKYO.
WHAT'S THAT THING?
NOTHING, NOTHING... I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN BETTER. IT JUST SLIPPED OUT.
*FX: D'OH!
"IDLING" ...? WHAT'S *THAT?*
IF I CAN DUMP THE OLD MONITOR, I CAN SAVE A LOT OF WEIGHT, EVEN COUNTING IN THE COOLING UNIT FOR THE PROJECTOR POWERPACK.
I'M THINKING OF USING IT IN MY LANDMATE.
I MIGHT AS WELL MAKE SOME LUNCH WHILE I WAIT--OF *COURSE* YOU HAVEN'T EATEN, RIGHT?
YAH-HOO!
YOU'RE HOPELESS ...
CAN YOU HANG ON A BIT? I WANT TO FINISH THIS NEW PARTS LIST BEFORE WE GO.

WE'LL EAT OUT! WE'LL EAT OUT!!
?
UNTIL THIS MORNING, MY BIKE WAS IN PIECES... AND GOING OUT FOR SOAP AND STUFF IS SUCH A DRAG. ANYWAY... THE ONLY SHOES I'VE GOT ARE MY CYCLE BOOTS...
MY WASHING MACHINE AND VACUUM ARE, uh, ON VACATION.
WHAT ON EARTH DO YOU DO WHEN I'M NOT AROUND?! WHAT ABOUT YOUR LAUNDRY? AND THE HOUSE-CLEANING?!
CI-CI- CIVILIZATION DISEASE!
HAH! "MANUAL" DISEASE!
SHOEN
Umm... IN THIS SITUATION, I SHOULD ...
BIOROID HITOMI
APPENDIX
*book CORRECT SOCIAL INTERACTION INTERPERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS MANUAL FOR BIOROID HITOMI

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